The World's Daily Newspaper.

London, Monday, December 28, 1998

# China Again Imprisons A Democracy Activist

Court Orders 4th Lengthy Sentence in a Week

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Service

BEUING - Dealing out the fourth lighty prison term to political dissenters in a week. China convicted a veteran democracy activist on Sunday for "pro-viding intelligence to hostile foreign or-ganizations," a human rights group said, because he gave an interview about farmer protests to Radio Free Asia, which is

financed by the U.S. government.

After an unusual Sunday trial in the southern province of Hunan that lasted less than three hours, the defendant, Zhang Shanguang, 42, was sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to Human Rights in China, which is based in New

Mr. Zhang previously spent seven years in prison for organizing an in-dependent labor union in 1989. This year, before his detention in July, he formed a group to protect laid-off workers and tried to register it with local officials. Chinese authorities, fearing social frest at a time of rising unemployment, appear to be especially fearful of any

Party control and of any efforts to link up disaffected workers with democracy

Last week, as part of the most severe crackdown on dissidents here in two years, three longtime activists who promoted a new China Democracy Party—Xu Weali, Qin Yongmin and Wang

What many forgot: China is a one-party state. Page 4.

Youcai - were convicted on subversion charges and given sentences of 11.

At his brief trial, Mr. Zhang was charged with "illegally providing intelligence to hostile foreign organizations and persons," according to his lawyer and relatives.

The indictment specifically named a phone interview that Mr. Zhang gave last march to Radio Free Asia in which he discussed a protest against high taxes

See CHINA, Page 4



FLEEING THE FIGHTING - Carabinieri paramilitary police in Otranto, on the coast of southern Italy, conducting a roll call on Sunday of illegal immigrants from Kosovo before sending them to a refugee center.

# **War Looms** In Kosovo As Rebels Fight Police

Diplomats Question Usefulness of Monitors As Truce Disintegrates

> By Mike O'Connor New York Times Service

PODUJEVO, Yugoslavia - As the truce in Kosovo continued to disintegrate, rebels came down from the hills Sunday and attacked a large police position here along the main road between Belgrade and Pristina, the capital of the

Serbian province.
Some diplomats questioned whether the international monitors who are trying to keep the October cease-fire from collapsing will be in sufficient strength and will learn the skills of keeping peace in the Balkans in time to prevent full-scale war. About 2,000 monitors are expected, but less than half that number is in

While some police fought rebels along the road, other units tried to enter rebelcontrolled territory nearby and were caught in ambushes that left two armored personnel carriers damaged or destroyed and three officers wounded, according to government officials. The officials said the rebels used a 120mm mortar in the ambushes. If true, that means the rebels have much more powerful weaponry than had been known.

Smaller mortars were used in the combat on the main road, though it was unclear which side was using them. Heavy machine-gun fire poured from police units that commandeered a motel near the road. The police appeared to have pushed the attackers back after about balf an hour.

International monitors say ethnic Albanian civilians have come under sniper fire from the police in the motel for

There has been shooting in this area of northern Kosovo since Thursday, when government forces tried to capture a village and the regional headquarters of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army. Ethnic Albanians, who make up more

than 90 percent of Kosovo's population, want to form an independent country. After the rebels repulsed a govern-

ment attack Thursday, international monitors brokered an agreement in which both sides agreed to pull back their troops, but neither side seems to want to stop fighting.
On Saturday, rebels killed an elderly

Serbian man in a village near Podujevo. the largest town in the area; he was the father-in-law of a local police official. The rebels said he had been firing at them from his home.

On Sunday morning, as local Serbs gathered for the man's funeral, rebels shot and wounded another older Serb,

who they also said was firing at them. With tensions growing, the monitors, stationed in the local headquarters of both rebel and government forces, were summoned to brief senior monitors in Pristina. About 30 minutes after they

left, the fighting started.

The police said they were ambushed as they sought to rescue the elderly man who was wounded. A rebel leader said

the police came to attack them. Some foreign officials said the fight-ing Sunday was partly the result of the inexperience and insufficient number of the monitors.

"There was nobody to tell the KLA, 'Relax, relax,' a foreign official said, speaking of the Kosovo Liberation Army. "If they go in and work the problem it will calm down," he said. Then, referring to the regional rebel commander, he added, "If they don't stay on top of it, Remi will take Podujevo, in the worst

case, and that means Pristing is next." ■ Violence Threatens Mission

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the worsening violence in Kosovo jeopardized its truce-verification mission, Reuters re-

ported from Warsaw.
"If the bloodsbed and violence es-calate, the OSCE will have to reconsider the forms of its activity in Kosovo, said the head of the organization, Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek of Poland. The group is responsible for sending the unarmed monitors.

# As Europe Aligns Its Currencies, Disunity Persists in Pricing

By Edmund L. Andrews New York Times Service

KRONBERG, Germany - Klaus Gossens built his career by thinking more like a European than a German. As head of European trade management at Braun AG, he has nurtured one of the best-known European brand names for such household gadgets as coffeemakers, spice-grinders and electric shavers.

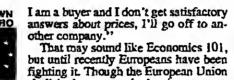
So, as much of Europe takes a huge step toward unity by introducing a single currency, the euro, wby is Mr. Gossens worried?

His problem is pricing: A Braun Flex Integral shaver sells for about \$90 in Spain, \$103 in the

Netherlands, \$118 in Germany and \$124 in France, There are similar variations for countless other products, from Chanel perfume to Volkswagen sedans to Levi's eans to Bayer aspirin.

And French or German consumers are not the only ones who pay more. Europe's biggest retailers themselves often pay their suppliers different prices in different

"Until now, buyers tolerated those differences," Mr. Gossens said at Braun's beadquarters in Kronberg, north of Frankfurt. "But they aren't tolerating them anymore. We are entering a situation where everything is very transparent. If



abolished most trade barriers among member countries several years ago, European retail markets remain stubbornly

balkanized. Now, as 11 countries prepare to start using the euro as their common currency Friday, the crazyquilt system has become a battleground. The euro should theoretically make it much easier to compare prices and to pounce on discrepancies. It is

also likely to give a new lift to cross-border transactions within Europe, because it will eliminate exchange-rate fluctuations and the cost of hedging against them.

Though the new bills and coins will not begin circulating until 2002, the euro is already quite real. The participating countries — Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxerubourg, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Finland — will permanently lock their exchange rates to the euro on New Year's Eve and surrender control over monetary policy to the new European Central Bank. Some stores already are

See EURO, Page 13

Bonn Parties

**Divided Over** 

East German

**Ex-Stalinists** 

By John Schmid

East Germans ousted the Communists,

the beirs of the Stalinist party have taken

a giant stride toward the political main-

Ever since Eastern Germany's re-

formed Communists made unexpec-

tedly strong gains in the September elections, the political establishment in

both Eastern and Western Germany bas

agonized over how to treat a once-un-

touchable party newly legitimized by the ballot box but still stigmatized by its

The reformed Communists, since re-

named the Party of Democratic Socialism, now revel in their status as the self-

declared party of Eastern pride and lobby for unification's losers. Riding its

momentum, the PDS already plans to

expand its newfound influence in an

unusually heavy slate of four East Ger-

man statehouse races and myriad mu-

nicipal elections next year.
"We are normal," said Hanno Harnisch, a party spokesman. "We have an enduring place in the political land-

Scape."
But just as it appeared on its way to respectability and acceptance, the party

inflamed the debate over its oppressive

called for an amnesty for crimes com-mitted in the name of the old Com-

munist government, including shoot-to-

They then added to the ensuing up-

roar with proposals to pay compensa-tion to former East German officials

See GERMANY, Page 5

kill orders for border guards.

Tearing open old wounds, its leaders

totalitarian roots.

past this month.

stream in their new political system.

tional Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT - Nine years after

# Recession in Asia Brings Resistance to Openness

Political and Economic Freedom Are Under Fire

By Michael Richardson International Herold Tribune

SINGAPORE - With many of East Asia's economies mired in recession, and the prospect of further troubles in. 1999, some countries in the region including the two most populous. China and Indonesia — are warning that curbs

ceded to cope with A LOOK AHEAD As mass unemployment and social 1999

Malaysia, Warts and All

**Anwar Trial Exposing Government Secrets** 

distress deepen in the months ahead, the ASIA challenge to political and economic tiberatism is Asia is likely to intensify as Asian governments seek to nighten controls by asserting that stability is essential for recovery, ana-

"A new conservatism in Asia may be rising in reaction to the economic crisis, said Ding Xue Liang, a research fellow in the Contemporary China Cen-ter at the Australian National University in Canberra. To many in Asian political and intellectual circles, liberal decracy does not appear to be the solu-

By Thomas Fuller

KUALA LUMPUR - When Anwar

for the political spectrum for a fair and open procedure. Malaysia's ousted deputy prime minister, was first brought to court two months ago on corruption and sodomy charges, there were calls from across the political spectrum for a fair and open procedure. Malaysia was on trial, politicians and columnists said, as

But after 33 days of testimony, one

question is increasingly being put. Cana-developing country like Malaysia —

one in which information has long been

much as Mr. Anwar was.

tion to their current financial and

economic problems."
Yet liberalism — in the shape of more open markets and greater accountability of governments — is strongly advoc-ated by the United States, other Western nations and financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund as the only real solution to

the region's fundamental problems.

Those countries and institutions have provided emergency loans amounting to more than \$140 billion to help three of the most badly affected East Asian gations - Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea - in exchange for reforms.

A few other countries, among them the Philippines and Singapore, are pressing ahead with similar reforms to make their economies more transparent

and competitive.

But many others are either having second thoughts about opening more widely to public scrutiny and international competition or reverting to authoritarian political controls and meth-

ods of the command economy.

Western officials and business ex-

See ASIA, Page 4

rightly controlled — handle the scrutiny of a trial that lays bare the inner work-

ings of its government?

The trial is reported nightly on the television news and is featured almost

every day on the front pages of news-papers here, offering an unfiltered and

unprecedented view of the upper ech-

closs of power. The case has featured the names of top officials, among them close allies of Prime Minister Mahathir

bin Mohamad, who dismissed Mr. An-

war in September after a year of ac-

rimony between the two men. Witnesses have sold the court how they

were awarded government contracts, an

police say they are concerned about

"What is hurting most now in Malay-

sia are the institutions of democracy and

government," said Rustam Sani, a lec-nirer at the University of Malaya.

They are pascent, still being built the judiciary, the police, the civil service,

the political parties. It will take some time until we can have confidence in

often opaque process in Malaysia.

collateral damage.

CHALLENGE TO NETANYAHU - Yitzhak Shamir, left, lending support Sunday as Uzi Landau of Likud announced his candidacy for prime minister. Meanwhile, a top Likud contender dropped out. Page 7.

# AGENDA

# Iraq Vows to End UN Oil-for-Food Deal

fraq said it would reject an exten-sion of a UN-monitored oil-for-food program that feeds civilians and that it

would order aid monitors to leave. Baghdad also said it would fire on U.S. and British warplanes patrolling the "no-fly" zones imposed after the

Gulf War. Officials said that antiaircraft ganners were prepared to

The tough talk came as a group of Arab legislators meeting in Amman, Jordan, condemned recent U.S.-British air attacks as "unjust aggression" and called on Arab governments to work on the lifting of the UN trade embargo against Iraq. Page 7.

open fire on planes patrolling the

# Bonn's Plea on Taxes

Germany appealed to other EU members Sunday to get rid of what it called unfair tax loopholes and emphasized that creating a system of "fair taxes" would be a priority when Germany took over the rotating presidency of the European Union at the start of the new year. Page 11.

### PAGE TWO New Swiss President: The Facilitator Page 7. Opinion ..... Page 6. Page 9.

# Legacy of '60s Plays Out in Divisions Over Clinton

By David S. Broder and Richard Morin Washington Post Service

Put simply, the trial of Mr. Anwar is shaking the foundation of government. And lawyers, political analysis and the WASHINGTON — The sharply divided public reaction to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton has provided a dramatic showcase of a struggle for American values that goes back to the 1960s and remains unresolved today.

As an emblematic figure from that troubled decade, polls and analysts said, Mr. Clinton confronts his fellow citizens with choices between deeply held moral standards and an abhorrence of judging others' behavior, a conflict the baby boomers have stirred all

their adult lives. A series of surveys about values by The Washington Post, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University underlines the growing tolerance Americans now display for groups like homosexuals

that have suffered discrimination and toward practices from interracial marriage to premarital sex that once might have been condemned. That tolerance also extends to free expression of controversial views. But few issues are more revealing than Mr. Clin-

As its life ends, the 105tb Congress seems to have

frozen the early agenda of the 106th. Page 3.

values have changed over the last 30 years. Almost without exception, experts interviewed said that the public verdict in his case was far different than it would have been in the late 1960s because the values environment has changed.

Conflict over the social order is notably less violent than it was in 1968, when the assassinations of Martin

Luther King Ir. and Robert Kennedy, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, urban riots and violent clashes between police and protesters at the Democratic National Convention scarred the nation's consciousness. But 1998, with a bitter, year-long battle in the courts and Congress climaxing in the first presidential imton's impeachment when it comes to highlighting how peachment in 130 years, has left deep divisions across social, political and generational lines.

They begin, according to the Post/Kaiser/Harvard survey, with a near-even split between those (50 percent) who think a president "has a greater responsibility than leaders of other organizations to set the moral tone for the country" and those (48 percent) who say, "As long as he does a good job running the country, a president's personal life is not important." Reflecting the partisanship engendered by the long

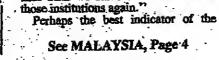
See VALUES, Page 3



Cyprus ...... C £ 1.00 Nigeria ... 12800 Naira

Feet Britain UK £1.00 Saudi Arabia 10 SR Egypt 2E 5.50 S. Africa R16 incl VAT Jordan 1.250 JD U.A.E 10:00 Dh Kenya K SH 160 U.S. Mil (Eur.) \$ 1.20 Kuwait 700 Fils Zimbatwa Zim.\$40.00

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# A Swiss 'Facilitator' Searches for the Middle

By John Vinocur ional Herold Tribune

ERN - Ruth Dreifuss says it almost before her visitors are settled into their chairs: She will not be an alibi, a public relations prop depicting Switzerland as reconciled with its past, or a marker to paint its history with the harsh, dark lines of caricature. But being Switzerland's first woman and first

Jewish president may come with difficulty. Her success, as she suggests, would mean helping find a new context, a still uncertain middle space, where Switzerland could begin to come to terms with its old self-vision of virtue, and its new and unwelcome persona of World

War II accomplice and profiteur.

A reservoir of anger and grief that has not yet found resolution accompanies the post she takes

over for a year on Jan 1.

How does she do the job right, getting all the nuances, choosing the references between bucolic picture postcard and self-flagellation, that both confront and try to explain an aching reality? How does Ruth Dreifuss serve as the emblematic representative of a country that for years tried, in effect, not to know how much it was a conscious onlooker to the Holocaust or even more, its shameful beneficiary?

Her job is largely ceremonial, a mission she defines as more one of a "facilitator" than an uncontested leader at the head of the Federal Council, or Swiss government. Her election as president, she stresses, came not as part of a vast Swiss image-retouch, but because it was simply her turn, as the council member responsible for health and social affairs since 1993, to take over the country's rotating presidency. Even so, being President Dreifuss is not less delicate; getting to the consensual middle on the issue of Switzerland's conscience cannot be comfortable for

When she talks to visitors in an office of careful unpretentiousness, her sentences almost always seem to come in pairs. It is as if her articulation of her dilemma, expressing the many contradictory levels of her vision of Switzerland, had a double track, a constant negative plus positive link, an on-the-one-hand layer of resolve and directness, and an on-the-other-hand layer of mod-

So, when Miss Dreifuss points to how Switzerland started to resolve the issue of moncy owed Holocaust survivors by Swiss hanks, she quickly adds, "This was an initiative, I recognize, that was born only under outside pressure."

The pattern is strong. On-the-one-hand; "I don't ant that my presidency gives anybody the feeling that Switzerland no longer has to be concerned with its past" or the elements of anti-Semitism in it. Then, on-the-other, about anti-Semitism: "I deny that it's any greater here than elsewhere. Don't have

lin hospital, the British national news ficult.

cy, Fress Association, reported

rangements were not immediately

Mr. Goulding, a committed Marxist,

His poorly armed and poorly organ-

ized group had been unwilling to begin

an insurrection in British-ruled North-

em Ireland in the late 1960s, and after

a bloody feud, younger Roman Catholic

militants such as Gerry Adams and Mar-

tin McGuinness broke away to form the

Under Mr. Goulding's leadership, the

Official IRA declared a cease-fire in

Provisional IRA and Sinn Fein.

was the IRA's commander in 1969

when the paramilitary group split.

The cause of death and funeral ar-

The Associated Press

Mr. Goulding became highly critical of the Provisionals, saying that the viformer chief of staff of the Irish Re-

publican Army, died Saturday in a Dub- and that it made Irish unity more dif-

connections.

a school in England.



I'm happy to be able to say that Switzerland is moving and that I'm part of what's moving."

me saying that. But that's enough. Even if it's like it is elsewhere, that's enough.'

Yes, she says, there are now "certain marks on Switzerland's reputation," but no, "I don't think you can talk about damage" to Swiss effectiveness economically or on the international level.

THE PATTERN seems almost instinctive, and curiously it reflects the way Miss Dreifuss sees Switzerland dealing with its fears about its past: "There have always been two movements. We try to find out a hit more, and then we close up the cellar so as not to see what's in

there. I think we're going much further now." Possibly the most intense period of Miss Dre-ifuss's presidency will come in the spring when a government-appointed panel of international historians will issue a report on Swiss policy during the war. She has said she expects to launch a national debate, and - the hunt for the middle comes in here - to explain to Jewish organizations where their demands are justified and where, as she signaled in advance, they are less

Miss Dreifuss, who is 58 and not married, was born to Swiss-Jewish parents in St. Gallen and moved during the war to Geneva, across the lake from Nazi-occupied France, or as she puts it, "a few kilometers from a death sentence." She recalls her father as a Swiss patriot, experiencing "a moment of joy" when he put on a Swiss military uniform for the first time.

There was no massive, popular Swiss anti-Semitism during the war, Miss Dreifuss believes. hut real anti-Semitism nonetheless in the country's asylum policy. "The worst was the indifference, and pushed to the extreme, considering Nazism normal and that it didn't concern

Her own career developed through the Socialist Party and feminist activities as she worked in the trade union movement. A reputation of calm, fairness, and competence allowed her to leap local politics, bringing her directly into the government five years ago.

ISS DREIFUSS talks sparingly of her own personal history, hut she says her family "lived in fear" dur-ing the war. There has been no change in the volume of her mail since the Parliament approved her selection as president in early December, although some letters were "more vehement, more stupid." As for anti-Semitism in Switzerland, "I've encountered it, you could say. It happens. I've never suffered from it as an obstacle."

In a country in which women received the right to vote in all its cantons only in 1990, Miss Dreifuss sees herself as a new face. "I represent another Switzerland. More urban. More egalitarian, More tolerant."

She is an advocate of Swiss membership in the United Nations and the European Union. Neither will happen on her watch, but should be taking place, she believes, during the next five years.

If she insists she is unwilling to serve as anyone's lever or alibi. Miss Dreifuss says she will pay special attention to the needs of women's and human rights groups. Then she adds her modulating

clause. They must not be demagogic.

At her most bold, Miss Dreifuss, says, "I'm happy to be able to say that Switzerland is moving and that I'm part of what's moving."

This, of course, had its own careful preface: "I don't want the Swiss to think that equality is achieved because I'm president of this country.' "There's a long way to go," she says.

# 4 Dead as Storms Lash

Ireland and Britain Agence France-Presse LONDON -- Four people were killed, one is missing, and about 200,000 homes were without electricity Sunday after

Britain and Ireland, the police said. A 23-year-old man died when a tree fell on his car in the Connemara region of western Ireland, where winds hit 106 miles (170 kilometers) per hour. A man died in Northern Ireland when his car

smashed into a fallen tree. In northern Wales, another auto accident caused by fallen trees killed a five-year-old boy and seriously injured his mother, who was driving. Rescue workers in Devon, western England, pulled the body of a 44-year-old man

from a swollen river. In Brighton, south England, a man was carried away hy a huge wave as he was about to swim in the sea.

Company of the compan

# Among U.S. Students, French Keeps Its Chic A

Appeal Endures Despite Waning Influence

By Jacques Steinberg New York Times Service

NEW YORK - U.S. high school teachers are abuzz with reports that Lat-in, long given up for dead, is showing a pulse. But the more remarkable news in language circles may really be that millions of American teenagers continue to study French, despite the fading significance of France and its language.

According to the most recent surveys, According to the most recent surveys, nearly I out of every 4 American students who learn a foreign language in middle school and high school still chooses. French, a language spoken fluently by only about I out of every 50 people on the planet. By contrast, 1 percent of American teenagers study Chinese or Japanese, which combined are spoken by 20 percent of the world's neonle. percent of the world's people.
This comes as French has effectively

ceded to English its longtime standing as the first language of diplomacy, among other crowns. So is French being taught out of proportion to its role in the family

of nations and the global economy? Richard Brecht thinks so. He is the director of a group called the National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages, which represents anyone teaching languages other than English, French, Spanish and German, March Council Presents any other than English, French, Spanish and German, March Council Presents and Council Pr man. He comes down particularly hard on French (studied by 22 percent of American teenagers) and German (6 percent), saying be can think of no good reason to push them on so many American students at the expense of Russian

The only answer that makes sense; besides the fact that those are the languages available, is that they are just so deeply embedded in our cultural tra-ditions," Mr. Brecht said: "It becomes a cultural argument, not a logical argument, and that's not an argument."

Mr. Brecht, a professor of Russian at the University of Maryland, said it made sense for Americans to know Spanish; which is "our second language" and which two out of three teenagers learn. So too the languages of Asia and Russia: because their actions have social and economic consequences for the United States. Yet only 0.3 percent study Russian, 0.17 percent take Cantonese and Mandarin and 0.77 percent Japanese, according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.
For America's schools, the reasons

for offering French are often quite basic. One is tradition: America's love affair with French can be traced to 18th-century Southern colonists, whose classical education included the language. Though the world may have changed since then, a school's attempt to broaden its language palette can be difficult, with the teachers and time needed to offer Russian or Chinese or Arabic - harder and longer to master than Preach or Spanish - in short supply.

ce rorest High School in Felton, Delaware, a small town near Dover, is offering Japanese to 10 studeots. But to squeeze it into the carriculum - to meet their language requirement, roughly half the students take Spanish, the other half French—the class is given after school, via satellite from the University of Georgia. The program costs \$5,000 and is funded by a federal grant.

There are, of course, more than a few Francophiles who are appalled at any suggestion that the importance of French is declining. After all, French is necessary for translating the works of Voltaire, or even the works of Celine Dion, a French Canadian.

Defenders of French can be found even in traditionally unfriendly places. A British official at the United Nations, who insisted on anonymity so he would not be seen as a defender of the French, said that French could occasionally be useful.

"If you want to impress your girl-friend," he said, "have a bit of French pillow talk."

Holding out another clive branch, he added, "I don't think you should necessarily be hard-nosed, saying you should only learn a language that is going to further your business interests. People need an education to be enlightened, and French is part of that.

But French has limited practically, he conceded. "I have enough trouble in

a cab in New York, 'he said. 'There, Urdu might be helpful.'

Not so for those traveling to Quebet, where French is a necessity and the use of English is restricted on signs, or for those interested in the arts.

Morgan Arenson, a ninth grader at the Fieldston School in New York, is in her third year of French, which she believes will help her in becoming a ballerina. "The steps that are done, they were named in France, because that is sort of where ballet took hold," said Morgan, 14. "We do little stories in French class. Someone was throwing something and the book used the word jeter. I thought, Oh. I know what that is.'

Amanda Wilder, an 11th grader at the Kent School in Litchfield County, Connecticut, could have chosen German Spanish, Japanese or Latin. While most of her classmates selected Spanish, she picked French.

"I had been told that French was the language of the diplomats," she said, "and that all high-powered people, such as Madeleine Albright, spoke it." Yet it is in the area of diplomacy that

French has suffered some of its bitterest losses. While some in France continue to swat away Americanized phrases like le stress and disk-jockey that have slipped through their borders; delegates of former French colonies from Africa and Southeast Asia are increasingly choosing to communicate in English rather than Prench at official conclaves.

# Another Team Sets Balloon Attempt

SYDNEY - An Australian-American team is preparing for its attempt at the first nonstop around the world balloon flight, with first off planned for just days after an attempt at the man and the start and the Pacific Ocean.

The team, led by the Denver real? estate magnate Dave Liniger, is making final preparations in the Australian outback town of Alice Springs. Mr. Liniger, John Wal-lington, an Australian, and Bob Martin, a journalist from Albuquerque, New Mexico, expects to succeed where others failed by taking the high road, flying on the outer edge of the atmosphere where

weather should not be an issue. The launch is scheduled for

Tuesday morning.
The team will fly under a hoge NASA developed balloon in a maching an pressurized capsule, reaching an altitude of about 24 miles (39 kilometers) above sea level.

### who founded a monarchist party in 1946, the year Italians voted to inaugurate a republic, died Friday in Rome,

TRAVEL UPDATE

ROME (AP) - Alfredo Covelli, 84,

Cathal Goulding, Ex-IRA Chief, Dies

g was born in Duh

1922, into a family with strong IRA

He was interned by the Irish government during World War II for his membership in the Irish Republican

Army. After the war, he was involved in

the revival of the organization, and in

1953 he was sentenced to prison for

eight years in Britain for an arms raid on

Alfredo Covelli, 84, Founder

Of Italian Monarchist Party

### Arc de Triomphe Shut PARIS (Reuters) - The Arc de Triomphe, one of Paris's most popular tourist attractions, was off-limits to visitors Sun-

day as the monument's employees went on strike over staffing levels and pay.

The employees, who walked out on Saturday afternoon, complain that they must work too much overtime and are demanding bonuses and the hiring of additional staff.

Lights and heat were switched back on over the weekend for many customers in the southern United States who had been shivering since an ice storm

The quickest and most

comfortable connection to

ecition (rewills). If member of the EAT-Group and the Motorbiograppe litterarigidin are once again offering you the traditional contraction between Zurich and St. Moritz during the winter season, 1998/99, the the uniter section Executive Traveller is linking St. Moritz (Sectional linguity with the virtual words by as a Scient and contraction, interests.

snapped power lines across the region. But thousands more still had no electricity since a pre-Christmas ice storm pulled down power lines and snarled highway and airline travel. Thousands in Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and North Carolina were without power early Sunday. (AP)

Security has been tightened on Switzerland's main Alpine rail crossing after three bomb threats from an anonymous caller demanding money, state police said Sunday. The 15-kilometer (9.5-mile) Gotthard tunnel, on a key north-south route between Germany and Italy, was closed for two hours Friday and

searched following the first threat (AP)

Mr. Corbelli's National Monarchical

Party appealed to some of the 11.5 mil-

lion Italians who had voted in favor of

retaining the monarchy. In 1972, the

Italian Social Movement. Mr. Covelli

served for more than 30 years in the

Sandro Cherchi, 87, a sculptor who

was one of the founders of the Italian

anti-fascist artistic and literary move-

ment Corrente of the 1930s, died in his

Turin home, RAI television reported

Wang Ganchang, 90, the Chinese-and German-trained scientist credited

with founding China's atomic bomb

program, died Dec. 10 in Beijing of an

unspecified illness, the Xinhua press

agency reported Saturday.

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Thick fog at Delhi airport on Sunday disrupted air traffic, causing about half of all arrivals and departures to be canceled, the Airport Authority said. (Reuters)

Trans World Airlines reported far fewer cancellations Saturday after a judge ordered union flight attendants staging a 'sickout" back to work, but hundreds of frustrated travelers remained stranded. TWA canceled about 45 flights Saturday, down from more than 90 the day before, as flight attendants staged a show of anger over the lack of a new contract. (AP)

# This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays: MONDAY: Australia, Antam. Canada, Ireland.

TUESDAY: Costa Rica, Ireland.
WEDNESDAY: Costa Rica, Japan, Philippures.

THURSDAY: Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium Brazil, Britam, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand,

FRIDAY: All countries except. Egypt, India, Luchtenstern, Pokistan. SATURDAY: Oman, Saudi Arabia.

Sources, IP Margan, Bloomberg, Reuters.

WEATHER



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# THE AMERICAS

# Ps Its Ch. President and Congress Face a Budget Crunch Despite Surpluses, Built-In Spending Caps

By Richard W. Stevenson

WASHINGTON - As the Clinton administration finishes drawing up its stax and spending proposals for the next fiscal year, it is confronting the perplexing but painful reality that despite mounting federal budget surpluses there is little money for new programs, and some areas could face cuts.

Given the strict spending caps en-acted at a time when the deficit seemed o be a permanent fixture, administration of budget tricks to find ways to pay for the programs that President Bill Clinton wants to propose when he sets out his priorities to Congress next month.

Administration officials said they

would have enough money available in their budget plan to show that Mr. Clin-ton can still push an activist agenda despite his impeachment and pending Senate trial

Mr. Clinton is expected to propose some domestic programs that went at a nowhere in Congress this year, such as a forts and tax breaks for child-care expenses, as well as to come up want or initiatives such as assistance for dispenses, as well as to come up with some

But he also is committed to providing more money for defense and has already nnounced his support for an increase in pay and pensions for the military.

Mr. Clinton has told members of Congress that it will be all but impossible to deal with all the issues facing the country, from providing more milinary spending to dealing with Medi-care's looming troubles to meeting Democratic priorities for domestic programs, unless there is agreement to use some of the surplus, a step that Mr. Chinton communes to vow he will not even consider until the nation settles on a plan to shore up Social Security. . .

Staying with the policy of reserving the surplus until we've fixed Social Security has left us with a tight budget," said Gene Sperling, the White House economic adviser. "But balancing fiscal discipline with efforts to pass new investments in education and other priorities has in one form or another been the : balancing act the president has succeeded in pulling off throughout his tenure." In the meantime, the administration is assembling a budget for the year starting

Oct. I that does not rely on the simplus. Instead, it stays in balance by offsetting the cost of new programs saids outs in others and by creating new poss of money, at least on paper. Administration officials declined to divide any details; but people with whom they have consulted said the ideas under consideration included closing a variety of

# Smallest Octuplet Dies in Houston

... The Associated Press HOUSTON - The smallest of the occupiets born here this mouth died early Sunday from heart and lung failure, a week after she was

born weighing just 10.3 ounces.
Texas Children's Hospital announced the death of the baby, Chijindu Chidera, who was nicknamed Odera.
-She and her seven siblings had

been in intensive care since her birth Dec. 20 as part of the world'a first surviving set of octuplets.

The baby's condition began to

deteriorate significantly Saturday, when doctors moved her from a conventional ventilator to an oscillator in an effort to improve her blood oxygenation.

corporate tax loopholes and finding ways to squeeze more money out of

tobacco companies and cigarette sales.
Republicans, too, are chafing under the budget rules. Stymied by the administration in their efforts to get a big tax cut this year, they are regrouping to

One plan being considered by Senate Republicans calls for a tax cut to be financed out of budget surpluses over the next decade, but in a way intended to deflect criticism from Democrats that it would endanger Social Security. Under the plan, the government would con-tinue to set aside the portion of the surplus generated by the psyroll taxes that finance Social Security. Excess Social Security tax revenues accounted for all of the \$70 billion surplus last year and are expected to account for nearly all of the surpluses for the next several years. But with new, albeit tentative, ana-

lyses showing that the non-Social Se-curity portion of the surplus could grow more rapidly than expected, Republi-cans are optimistic that they can pay for a big tax cut and help pay for needed spending increases without being ac-cused of endangering the future of the

retirement system.

The immediate problem for the coming year centers on the spending caps setout in the budget law. The caps, which have grown increasingly tight in the last few years, effectively require a freeze in spending on discretionary programs for the next fiscal year - meaning a cut in many cases once inflation is taken into account. The tightness of the caps was a jolt even to cabinet members, who in recent months proposed programs cost-ing tens of billions of dollars more than the administration has to work with.

As a result, many of Mr. Clinton's plans this year will be limited or scaled back. On Wednesday, he unveiled his plan to provide more money next year for assistance to the homeless. Under the plan, he will ask for federal spending of \$1.125 billion for the year starting next Oct. 1, up from \$975 million this

year. But a year ago he was pushing for a bigger increase, to \$1.150 billion.
The ontlook for domestic programs is particularly clouded by a change in the budget rules that takes effect in the coming year. The change removes a fire wall' between the money available for domestic programs and the money available for military programs, essentially allowing one mea to be raided to finance the other.

Republicans are pressing hard for a substantial increase in defense spending next year, adjusted for inflation, to begin offsetting years of declines. The White House has already scaled back a request from the Pentagon but seems likely to approve a multibillion-dollar increase for next year, and it will no doubt have to negotiate a larger figure with Congress

before the budget process ends.

"The long and short of it is that the discretionary caps, even if we kept defense at levels we had been projecting, would be incredibly tight, said Thomas Kahn, staff director and chief counsel for Democrats on the House Budget Committee. By increasing military spending, he said, "it's going to take a hige whack out of nondefense discretionary" spending, "and shows even more clearly how difficult it's going to be to live within the caps."

. Members of both parties say the spending caps remain a valuable source of fiscal discipline for Washington and a source of considerable reassurance to Wall Street, which remains wary of the federal government's penchant for living beyond its means.
But while the caps are almost certain

to remain in place, both parties are likely to search for ways around them, as they did in the negotiations that concluded the budget for the current fiscal year.



SOUTHERN EXPOSURE - Ray Watson removing ice-covered branches in Huntsville, Alabama, while Dexter Cole soaked up the sun's rays at Pass-a-Grille, Florida.



# Can New Congress Rise Above Predetermined Role?

By Adam Clymer New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - Rarely has a new Congress had its future shaped so firmly by its predecessor. With only a few days left of its old life, the 105th Congress seems to have frozen the early agenda and tone of the 106th.

Impeachment is the main, if not quite the only, reason. The weakness and instability of congressional leadership is

The Republican Congress passed hardly any significant legislation in 1998. And its preference for investigations of the president left the public unhappy enough that Republicans lost

seats in the House, Now, with 223 seats, they have the thinnest majority since 1953. Any time the Republicans lose a net of six votes, the Democrats can defeat them,

Skillful, experienced leadership might overcome those numbers. Since the congressional elections Nov. 3, the Republicans have lost two speakers, Newt Gingrich and Bob Livingston. And in neither case did they consider anyone else in the elected leadership, let alone the mutually distrustful Texans who have held the No. 2 and 3 jobs since 1994, Dick Armey and Tom DeLay.

Dennis Hastert of Illinois may yet emerge as more than Mr. Gingrich's entire or health care issues and Mr.

adviser on health care issues and Mr. Delay's deputy, but there is no com-pelling evidence of his leadership

Over in the Senate, Trent Lott has had two-and-a-half years as majority leader.

**Away From Politics** 

The rate of violent crime in the

United States fell almost 7 percent in

1997 to the lowest level since the Na-

tional Crime Victimization Survey was

started 25 years ago, the Justice De-partment announced. In 1997, the last

year for which full statistics were com-

piled, there were an estimated 39 violent

crimes per 1.000 residents 12 years or

older, compared to 42 per 1,000 the year

before. The figure represents a 21 per-cent drop since 1993. (Rewers)

· A tourist who suffered massive head

injuries in an accident aboard Disney-

land's Columbia sailing ship ride died

after he was taken off life support. Two

other people were injured. After doctors

declared him brain-dead, Luan Phi Dawson, 34, was taken off life support

systems at the University of California's Irvine Medical Center. His widow, 48-

year-old Lieu Vuong, was in fair con-

dition, a hospital spokesman said. The

(Reusers)

and his footprints are faint. He is not really an ideologue, but be has to worry them to sit silently through the proabout ideologues' dominance of his

· And it will be a while before his political blunder of criticizing the bombing of Iraq and then saying he had not really meant it is forgotten. It is not as dramatic as voting for impeachment and then saying, "Oh, never mind," as some House Republicans did the week before last, but it is close.

Nor did the House really liberate itself from impeachment just by sending the matter to the Senate. The bitterness between the two parties is at peak levels, and while the country may not regard Mr. Delay with the scorn it came to feel for Mr. Gingrich, Democrats think of him as an ultrapartisan back, and they regard him, not Mr. Hastert or Mr. Armey, as the real boss of the House

And the House has trapped the Senate, setting its agenda by referring two articles of impeachment demanding that President Bill Clinton be tried, convicted and removed.

This is not a welcome task, like highway bills or an opportunity to share credit for tax cuts. Most senators would rather not have a fully fought-out trial with Monica Lewinsky as a star wit-

They have lots of reasons. Some actually have bills they would rather be working on. Others find the subject simply disgusting. Many think the charges are faulty. Most think there is no prospect of getting the 67 votes for conviction. And none like the idea of

couple, from Duvail, Washington, was

struck when a docking rope tore a large

cleat from the bow of the Columbia,

sending the cleat hurtling into a crowd,

Disneyland said in a statement. An em-

ployee, Christine Carpenter, was in

stable condition after foot surgery.(AP)

• The ice is starting to melt on Cali-

fornia orange and lemon trees, and

growers are cautiously optimistic that

the worst of a freeze that has hobbled the

state's \$1.5 billion citrus industry in the

past week is over. The state estimates at

least \$591 million in damage this year to

oranges, lemons and tangerines. (AP)

Six children, the youngest 2 years old, were killed when a fire roared through the upstairs bedrooms of their

grandparents' home in Detroit. Three

adults and a 10-year-old child escaped

by jumping ont of windows. The victims

ceedings, a spectacle that a former maority leader, Howard Baker, recently called "mind-boggling."

But getting together on a way to squeeze this issue back into the toothpaste tube may prove beyond Mr. Lott, whose thinking on the matter is un-

Most people who want censure want the president to admit he lied, and Mr. Clinton says he will not. Some senators want to see a trial go to a verdict, to embarrass even if they cannot expel the

Senate traditionalists want to make atmosphere.

though the rules are 130 years old. And senators instinctively bristle at advice from the outside, whether it is Mr. DeLay urging conviction or former presidents and former senators calling for censure.

Some resolution may come quickly. though the Senate is not known for speed. But if it does not, the standard of disagreeability could approach the House level.

Of course, politicians of both parties are eager to show that government can work and that they can do important - things for the nation even in the current

### POLITICAL NOTES

# 'Superbugs' Funding Sought by Clinton

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton will soon propose a \$25 million initiative to combat the spread of infectious diseases, including virulent new strains of microbes that resist treatment by antibiotics and other drugs, according to administration of-

Public health officials have become alarmed about the emergence of ally about the increasing incidence of infectious diseases once thought to be under control. The extra money will be included

in the budget request that Mr. Clinton sends to Congress early next year, administration officials said. It represents a 31 percent increase in the federal program to address emerging infectious diseases.

Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, the new di-rector of the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the additional money would be used to investigate outbreaks of infeccious diseases, to upgrade the laboratories of state and local health departments, to develop new diagnostic tests and to educate doctors and patients about the dangers of excessive use of anti-

# New Fight Planned On Drunken Drivers

WASHINGTON - Summoning a somber image of unopened packages on the shelf right beneath a Christmas tree ("presents you don't see it."

for a child killed by a drunk driver"), President Clinton has promised to renew his fight against drunken driving.

"For a generation, drunk driving has been one of America's greatest public-safety challenges," Mr. Clinton said Saturday in announcing new steps by the Justice and Transportation departments.

Mr. Clinton said he would try again

to gain passage of a nationwide .08 blood-alcohol standard for drunken driving. Congress rejected that pro-posal in May as it passed a trans-portation bill, and safety groups acthe liquor lobby.

The president promised grants to states and other incendves to enforce laws against drinking by minors, to reinforce programs to prevent drunken driving and to pass and enforce strong state highway-safety legislation.

"With alcohol flowing at parties and millions of families taking to the toad to see friends and relatives, the holiday season can also be a season of tragedy," Mr. Clinton said. (NYT)

# Quote/Unquote

Dan Carter, a historian at Emory University in Atlanta, as the impeachment of President Clinton moves to the Senate, noting that conservative Southerners hold virtually all of the Republican leadership positions in Congress: "I've been surprised that there's been so little discussion of bow much this whole process has been driven by the Southernization of the Republican Party. Maybe it's like the purloined letter: It's sitting there on the shelf right in front of you, so

# VALUES: America Divides Over Clinton Along Lines Drawn in Upheavals of '60s

# Continued from Page 1

estigation of Mr. Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, most Republicans demand a moral example and most Democrats reject

But sociologists and other students of American life interviewed last week said that the divisions went much deeper and had their roots in long-standing controversy generated not just by Mr. Clinton but by his baby-boom generation.

While most Americans want Mr. Ilinton to finish his term and prefer consure as an alternative to removal from office, few say he is a good role model Seven in 10 Americans including a majority of baby boomers
— said in the survey that Mr. Clinton did not have high personal moral or ethical standards. Six in 10 — again including a majority of baby boomers
— also said his standards were no better or worse than "most people of" his generation.

The public sees a nation that lacks agreed-upon ethical guidelines for itself. More than six out of 10 said the country was "greatly divided when it comes to the most important values."-Ironically, on this one question there was unity. Republicans and Demoall said they see a society split on local and ethical issues.

With some exceptions the

tend to agree. Some describe it as a battle of extremes—the puritanism of the religious right versus the permissiveness of the aging children of .. noes. But this year there were almost the 1960s. Others see the acceptance three noes (71 percent) for every yes of Mr. Clinton's actions as proof that (26 percent).

Americans are utterly cynical about their political leaders, mute spectators at a television drama that they despise but cannot escape.

Some say it is a symptom of na-

tional ambivalence, of individuals longing for moral values but resistant to imposing their standards on others. And the more hopeful say the preference for censuring the president rather than absolving him or removing him - is a healthy effort at synthesizing those opposing tenden-

In the same period, trust in govemment also has declined radically. In 1968, 61 percent said they trusted the government in Washington to do the right thing most or all the time; in 1998, only 33 percent felt that way. A pollster, Dan Yankelovich,

writes that "the transformation in values from the mid-'60s to the late-'70s confronts us with one of the sharpest discontinuities in our cultural history." In that period, be notes, the concepts of duty, social conformity, respectability and sexual morality

Nonjudgmentalism seems to have gained strength among the people, especially in the sexual realm.'

fortable with the stams quo.
"No analysis can absolve the

people themselves of responsibility for the quandary we appear to be in," said Don Eberly, director of the Civil Society Project in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. "Nonjudgmentalism, the trump card of moral debate, seems to have gained strength among the people, especially in the sexual realm, and this clearly does not bode well for America."

Over the last 30 years, polling shows, the proportion of people saying they think their fellow citizens generally are as honest and moral as they used to be has fallen significantly. In a 1952 survey, as many answered yes as said no. In 1965, there were three yeses for every four

But few of the scholars are com- were devalued, in favor of expressiveness and pleasure seeking.
This was a time when Bill Clinton.

moving through his 20s at Georgetown, Oxford and Yale, rejected military service and experimented with marijuana But in general, according to a biographer, the Washington Post reporter David Maraniss, Mr. Clinton followed "a moderate course during an increasingly immoderate period." The stamp of that period remained on Mr. Clinton, in at least two areas: the evasiveness that characterized his dealings with the "threat" of military service and the perinissiveness he allowed in his sexual life.

In judging Mr. Clinton's morals to be typical of his generation — only 7 percent thought them better, 27 percent, worse - most of those surveyed made it clear they disapproved. From the perspective of individual democracy."

responsibility, the divided public ver-dict on the Clinton case represents an unresolved debate about fundamental values. At the extremes, the conflict amounts almost to the "culture war" some trace directly back to the 1960s.
Randy Tate of the Christian Co-

alition and William Bennett, a former education secretary, have accused Mr. Clinton of subverting standards of honesty and decency so blatantly that be cannot be allowed to remain in office. The Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz and many Democrats in the House have accused Mr. Clinton's opponents -- notably the independent counsel Kenneth Starr of practicing "sexual McCarthy-ism," trampling civil liberties and invading people's privacy. Christopher Gates, president of the

Denver-based National Civic League, said that the pollster George Gallup Jr. had described the 1960s and '70s as "the time when our country fell apart and the bonds began to dissolve. You had a war between the generations, a war between the genders, you had Vietnam, break-ins, resignations, pardons. You had a huge dissolution of trust."

Michael Sandel, director of the Harvard Institute for Policy Studies, said the consequences went further. "We've witnessed a politics of scandal, sensation and spectacle that has turned the president into another figure in the celebrity culture," he said. "It reflects a cynicism beyond mistrust. It reflects a view that government really doesn't matter, except as it provides occasional spectacular entertainment. It is not good news for



Cagayan Economic Zone Authority

### **INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND** SUBMIT COMPARATIVE PROPOSALS

The Cagavan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) received an Unsolicited Proposal for the Redevelopment and Rehabilitation of Port Irene in Casambalangan Bay in Santa Ana, Cagayan, Philippines undar a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) arrangement. Port Irene is a deep harbor port located at the northeasternmost tip of the Philippines. It lies between and along the international shipping route of North Amarica and China. The Unsolicited BOT Proposal has been reviewed and approved for publication for submission of Comparative proposals by the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC).

Pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 6957 as amended by R.A. No. 7718, the CEZA through its Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee hereby invites interested parties to submit pre-qualification documents and comparative proposals not later than 12:00 noon on 26 March 1999 at the CEZA office located at 7/F Westar Bldg., 611 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, 1603, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The pre-qualification and tender documents may be obtained at CEZA Office. 7/F Westar Bldg., 611 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City, 1603, Metro Manila, Philippines during office hours starting from 4 January 1999 up to 15 January 1999 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) or Two Hundred Fifty US Dollars (\$250.00) and submission of Letter of Intent.

CEZA reserves the right to rejact any or all proposals, to waive any informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to bidder whose offer, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most reasonable and advantageous to CEZA and to the Philippine Gov-

> (SGD.) IRENEO V. VIZMONTE Chairman, PBAC

**Both Seek Amnesty From Genocide Charges** 

By Seth Mydans

three longtime aides of Pol Pot, the

allegiance to the government as well as a trial remains in question. reply from Prime Minister Hun Sen welcoming them in from the cold.

The defections were the latest, and among the most important, in a longtime Communist insurgency that began col-

# North Korea Warns of New **Missile Shot**

By David E. Sanger New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - North Korea has warned the United States that it is prepared to launch another medium-range missile, And the Clinton administratioo has privately told the North that such a step would jeopardize international aid it was promised in exchange for freezing

its ouclear weapons program.

The latest warning, published Friday by the official Korean Central News Agency, said it was "foolish for the U.S. to expect any change in our attitude."
But U.S. officials have said in recent

weeks that they have seen no activity to suggest that a launching was imminent. When North Korea launched a threestage missile over Japan on Aug. 31, it took the U.S. intelligeoce community hy surprise. Uotil then, American officials did oot believe that the North possessed the technology for a three-stage ballistic missile, which gives the country the ability to reach all of the major U.S. military bases in South Korea and Japan.

North Korea maintains that the launching was intended to propel a small satellite into low Earth orbit. While North Korean news agencies say the satellite now is broadcasting patriotic North Korea songs, U.S. officials say their review of the evidence suggests the satellite either failed to get into orbit or dropped out of orbit within hours of the launching.

'We haven't heard a thing," a senior administration official said last week,

because it's not up there anymore." The political significance of a second launching would likely be far greater ment it might represent for the North.

The administration has been trying to rescue a 1994 accord under which North Korea agreed to freeze its nuclear weapons program in exchange for fuel oil and the construction of two civilian nuclear power plants. The United States committed itself to paying for the fuel oil; Japan, South Korea and other nadons are paying for the ouclear plants.

But the discovery earlier this year of a huge dig under a mountain, which the United States suspects is intended for ouclear weapons development, and the ments. missile launchings have cast doubt oo the accord.

This mouth the North dropped a demand that it be paid in return for allowing international inspectors to see China from transmitters in Ceotral Asia the new site; instead, it suggested that it and the Pacific. would be willing to allow inspectors in if the United States provided more food network as hostile and tries, with some aid. Some aid has already been sent to success, to jam the broadcasts, which alleviate starvation in the country.

lapsing more than two years ago. They leave just one widely hated man. Ta PHNOM PENH — Two of the last circle of Mr. Pol Pot, who died in April. Both of the men are among the targets

former Khmer Rouge leader, have of a potential international tribunal for emerged from their jungle hideouts in crimes against humanity committed the hope of becoming 'ordinary citfrom 1975 to 1979, when the Khmer izens." the government announced over Rouge caused the deaths of more than a million people.

It made public copies of handwritten letters by the two men — Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea — pledging and the possibility of bringing them to

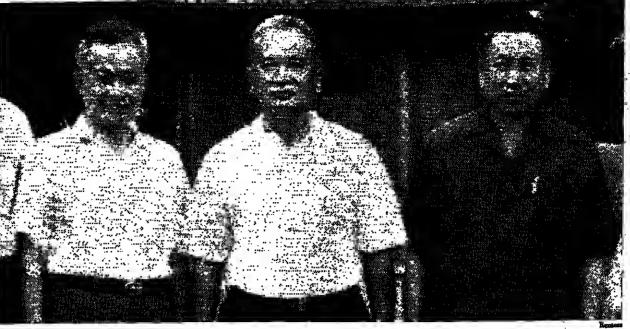
[A military commander said Sunday that the two Khmer Rouge leaders would not leave their base town, Pailin, without guarantees they will not be sent to face genocide charges abroad, Reuters re-

("They will oot emerge until officials return from Phnom Penh with that guarantee," the military commander said.
"These people are elderly men. They won't live much longer than 20 years why not let them live peacefully for the rest of their lives?"

[But a government spokesman, Khieu Kanharith, said in Phnom Penh that oo government could provide such a guarantee. If you are talking about international conventions, no government can grant amnesoes for those who committed genocide," he said.

[He and other government officials said, however, that if the two were to stand trial, the government preferred it be before a Cambodian court rather than before an international tribunal, after which the two men could apply for a royal amnesty.)

Like previous defectors from among the leadership, officials said, both meo have relocated to the remote gem-mining town of Pailin, a former Khmer cities and destruction of culture, learn-Ronge stronghold. Though Pailin is now ing, religion and industry.



Khieu Samphan, left and Nuon Chea, center, shown with the late Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot in 1986.

formally under government control, it is guarded by 2,000 armed former guer-rillas and is on a border with Thailand. which has been a safe haven for Khmer Rouge leaders for years.

The clear hope of the two elderly men is that they will be left alone, as previous defectors have been, and that Cambodia will choose not to stir up past demons with a trial.

'My only request is to return to society and live as an ordinary citizen," said Mr. Nuon Chea, 71, who was sometimes counted as "Brother Number 2" under Mr. Pol Pot. He is believed by invesigators to have been responsible for horrific purges that resulted in the prolif-eration of Cambodia's 'killing fields."

His words were echoed, in almost identical language, by Mr. Khieu Samphan, 67, who was the official head of state and the friendly, reasonable face of Mr. Pol Pot's brutal regime. His doctoral thesis, written in France in the 1950s, is sometimes seen as the blueprint for the movement's evacuation of

Under the rubric of "national reconciliation," Cambodia has so far preferred to try to forget, if not to forgive, the traumas of its past. But even if forgotten, they continue to infect the present.

It was in part because of his oego-tiations with Mr. Khieu Samphan that Prince Norodom Ranariddh was ousted in a coup last year by Mr. Hun Sen.
But after an election, Prince Ranariddh is back, sharing a coalition government as speaker of the National As-

sembly, and it is Mr. Hun Sen who oegotiated with Mr. Khieu Samphan. Though many Cambodians, weary and hrutalized by years of war and mass killings, say they prefer to let hygones be hygooes, others say they fear the lessoo that may be sent if Khmer Rooge leaders

walk free, "We cannot forget the past like this," said Thun Saray, leader of a human rights advocacy group called Adhoc, "If we do oot send these people to a tribunal, future leaders might say, 'Oh, I'm only

am only acting in the interests of the Cambodian people.'

If Mr. Hun Sen chooses to cooperate with preparations by the United Nations for a tribanal that would be held in Cambodia, both of the defectors could be extricated from Pailin, said Stephen Heder, a London-based expert on the Khmer Rouge. He added that a cut in Pailin's economic lifeline by the Cambodian government on one side and the Thais on the other could persuade the younger leaders, who now control the isolated enclave, to cut loose these old

revolutionary war horses.
On the other hand, Mr. Hun Sen might find it in his political interests to let the defectors live out their old age as the 'ordinary citizens" they dream of be-

But if Mr. Ta Mok is caught, the international outcry against this lone remaining fugitive would be difficult to silence, Mr. Heder said. A fiery, onelegged peasant soldier who is believed to be in his 70s, he has such a reputation for applying some new ideas for the good of the people, I'm only killing 100,000 brutality that even among the Khmer more people; why punish me, because I Rouge he is known as "the butcher."

fessor of political science at Columbia

University in New York. "They decided

that initiations for change could come

from outside rather than inside the Com-

munist Party. Bot that was never true."

Still, the Clintoo visit in June seemed

remarkably open and dissidents like Mr.

Wang thought the time was ripe to pro-

pose an alternative party. A few months

ater, initial attempts to register the party

in two provinces were not immediately

squashed. So the members felt further

In fact the China Democracy Party

emboldeoed.

# BRIEFLY

# Violence Erupts Around Indonesia

JAKARTA — Troops guarded three different locations in Indonesia on Sunday after outbreaks of holiday violence in which dozens of people were injured, government officials and police said.

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The The Mark

Near the Sumairan city of Medan, about 5,000 people stormed the redlight district Friday in the suburb of Belawan, the police said. The pro-testers were demanding the closure of the area during Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month.

In Poso, a town in central Su-lawesi, thousands of people rampaged Friday and Saturday, following reports that a drunken Christian had stabbed a Muslim, government officials said.

In Jeneponto, a coastal town in southern Sulawesi, hundreds of people set fire to a local government. building Friday to protest the appointment of a new regent, the administrative head of a local district,
the police said. Troops were on alert
there Sunday, but the town was reported to be calm. (Reuters)

# Australia Hauls In Illegal Immigrants

SYDNEY - Eight more illegal mmigrants were found wandering through Australia's remote north on Sunday, bringing to 50 the number found over the past three days, officials said.

A search by police was continuing for more people, who are be-lieved to have traveled to Australia's rugged coast aboard a cargo vessel that was found aground on

# Burma Dismisses **Deportation Rumor**

RANGOON -- The military government dismissed rumors Sunday that it might deport the opposition leader Daw Aung San Sun Kyi, saying the reports represented attempts by her party to create headlines.

A government statement said Daw Aung San Sun Kyi's National League for Democracy should join the ruling military and other countries in finding ways of riding out the Asian economic crisis, rather than trying to seek publicity. A league statement quoted the opposition leader as saying she had no intention f leaving Burma. (Reuters)

ssist China's much-publicized quest for

But many of these Westerners have little experience in China. And they have not spent much time with the older gen! landed in jail for their democratic lean- lowing their own democratic interests, they have focused instead on the young er, more progressive, often Western

impressions. Now the trials are remind was just weeks away? Or was there ers that, although China is undoubtedly moving toward a bit more openness, the direction is not necessarily toward West

ern democracy.

Western lawyers who recently took part in freewheeling law forums here.

said Stanley Lubman, a consulting profifessor at Stanford University Law School.

decide whether to continue with the trial or dismiss it.

In trying to prove their case against

Mr. Anwar, the government has exposed some harsh techniques used by police in

interrogate witnesses.

The former deputy prime minister is charged with ordering the police to obtain a written confession from Miss

alleged sexual misconduct.

The government has called in police

"turn over" witnesses — changing there stands in all-night interrogation sessions.

- and how they create a "climate of

Ummi and one other person to deny his

The government has called in punction officers to testify as to the way they

# What Many Forgot: China Remains a One-Party State

By Elisabeth Rosenthal New York Times Service

BELIING - Three months ago, Wang Youcai was feeling optimistic about the prospects of the China Democracy Party, a fledgling group he had helped to found and hoped to register as China's first opposition party. "I think the like-lihood I'll be rearrested is very small," he said in an interview.

But last week, after swift trials, Mr. Wang, 32, and two other organizers, Xu Wenli and Qin Yoog, were sentenced to more than a decade each in prison for 'subverting state power." In a speech, President Jiang Zemin proclaimed that challenges to Communist rule would be 'annihilated in the early stages."

Continued from Page 1

hy 70 to 80 farmers in ooe Hunan county

and another incideot in which a farmer

reported around the country in recent

years and national leaders have spokeo

ont against high, unfair burdens put on

peasants by local and county govern-

Radio Free Asia, which was estab-

lished by the U.S. Congress in 1996 and

receives all its funds from Congress,

hroadcasts news and other programs into

The Chinese government regards the

often emphasize democracy-related sub-

Numerous farmer protests have been

who refused to pay a tax was killed.

And on Sooday a fourth dissideot,

Zhang Shanguang, was sentenced to 10 that China's leaders were ready for a imprisonment for giving inter- dose of poliocal reform: Mr. Jiang disviews to Radio Free Asia, which is fun- cussed Tibet and the Tiananmen masded by the U.S. government

ANALYSIS grip. So the verdicts sent the United Nations High Commissioner ehullient hopes that on Human Rights. China was poised for change crashing to the ground - and oot just for the dis- overestimated the significance of such sidents but for the many Western leaders events, overlooking the obvious: China

year, applanding China for progress oo human rights and legal reform. How had their optimism been so far off base? Were their calculations overly

simplistic or terribly wroog? In fact, many signs in 1998 suggested

jects that are banned in the national

Radio Free Asia, speaking by phooe

to verify reports of the farmer protests

and 'he didn't say anything that wasn't

widely known — certainly it wasn't national security information."

this, they can always find an excuse,"

Radio Free Asia, which broadcasts in

native languages to eight countries where

news is censored, frequently quotes

Chinese residents on its programs, al-

though it does oot use names when it

appears the speaker will be endangered.

from Washington on Sunday.

Mr. Southerland said.

"We deeply regret this action," said

sacre with President Bill Clintoo during The surprising thing is that all this an hour of live television. China said it came at the end of a year when China's would sign the International Covenant rigid political system on Civil and Political Rights. Chinese seemed to be relaxing its officials played host to Mary Robinson,

But in their optimism, many people who have flocked to Beijing in the last remains a ooe-party state, with the rule year, applanding China for progress oo of the Communist Party written into its constitutioo.

never even came close to registering — no closer than hearing from a few local 'These were all important steps, but I officials that if its members could show

think they were misinterpreted by dis- things like an official meeting place and

sidents and by many in the outside a list of members, they were free to turn world," said Andrew Nathan, a pro- in an application. ings, it seemed like progress, even

CHINA: Another Democracy Activist Gets a Long Prison Term

Daniel Southerland, executive editor of more arrests. In general, only those who have been In the March interview, Mr. South-erland said, journalists called Mr. Zhang actively involved in organizing the new political party or independent worker groups have been imprisoned for any length of time. In contrast to earlier decades. Chinese people today are fairly free to voice dissenting opinions in private -"If they want to do someooe in like

so long as they do not act on them. In two receot speeches, widely pub-licized by the official media, the Chinese president and Communist Party chief, Jiang Zemin, stressed the overriding importance of protecting social stability and said that any threats to the sopremacy of the Communist Party would be "annihilated in the early stages."

though no one knew for sure just why Reeling from the recent trials, China's remaining dissidents are now waiting to see if the government will stop with the ticularly for Mrs. Robinson, whose visit jailing of a few leaders or continue with genuine debate about political reform

> chose to act on the chance that the opening was real.
> \*Especially around Angust and September there seemed to be a thaw," said Chen Zhonghe, a China Democracy Party member in Wuhan. "And some had the belief that Jiang Zemin might offer a different approach. That turned ont to be an illnsion."

> among the top leadership? The optimists'

Foreign governments and visiting dignitaries tuned in to the liberalizing signals as well, and they, too, found their hopes raised. Journalists proclaimed a Beijing spring. Lawyers from England, fessor a Germany and the United States came to School.

# 'rule of law.'"

China's leaders had turned cordial. Was trained officials and academics.

It was easy to leave with optimistic

Western lawyers was part in freewheeling law forums here said they were shocked that the dissidents were not even accorded lawyers or open trials, as are guaranteed by Chinese law.

"I think there's enough ferment that will cause boundaries on political discourse to be slowly expanded outward, 13

# ASIA: Recession's Effects Include New Resistance to Openness

# Continued from Page 1

ecutives complain that China, Vietnam, Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia over from Mr. Suharto. "If unconare increasingly inclined to abandoo free-market reforms and instead protect local companies and other interests hit hy the downturn hy raising barriers to foreign capital, businesses and goods.
In all these economies, export growth

is sputtering and foreign investment is falling. There is a loss of confidence in local currencies. Banks are burdened with huge bad loans that the companies that owe the money cannot repay anywhere cear in full.

Former President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines worries that the crisis may spawo a return of the virulent nationalism, protectiooism, managed trade. tight restrictions on capital movements and dictatorial politics that were rife in East Asia in the 1950s and 1960s.

"Everywhere in the region, the crisis threatens mass unemployment, epidemic crime, labor strikes, street demonstrations — all indications of severe fragmentation of national cohesion," he said in a recent interview with The Australian. "In the poor countries, we risk a political backlash not just against free trade and capital flows but against all the rich countries and the transnational corporations that dominate the global economic system."

Mr. Ramos warned that as a result, the tentative support for economic reform in the poorer countries could weaken, and "the temptation to return to dictatorial politics and governance could increase." Government leaders in Indonesia -

which has been wracked by worsening social tensions since the forced resignation of President Suharto in May warned recently that excessive political freedom was threatening national unity munist Party's almost 50-year-old mono-

"There is a tendency to fight for polit-il power through demonstrations," idence of entrenched political conical power through demonstrations," said President B.J. Habibie, who took trolled, these could lead to the disintegration of the nation." Earlier, the Indonesian education

minister, Juwono Sndarsono, said that political freedom had gone too far ton fast and urged Oght controls to prevent bloodshed during campaigning for na-Oonal elections June 7. "The pendulum has swung too much in favor of poliocal openness," he said. 'This desire for political democracy and

endemic economic deprivation — this combination is the most dangerous possible for political stability." Some 80 millioo Indonesians out of a population of just over 200 million are the 1980s left the two Asian counnow estimated to be surviving on less

than \$1 a day, foreign aid agencies say. The International Labor Organization has warned that this number could swell to two out of every three Indonesians more than 130 million people - within a political change that could threaten

year if the economic crisis continued. About 20 million Indonesians are officially unemployed, out of a work force from East Asia's financial turmoil by countryside. of 90 million. Many more work only a few hours a week.

Gripped by poverty and despair, many Indonesians have also lost respect for the Vietnam to withstand the Asian ecoarmed forces and police that propped up nomic crisis so far showed the "adthe regime of Mr. Suharto. As a result, there is a rising tide of

crime and lawlessness that analysts fear will deter investment and disrupt busioess as well as provide the military and in October. conservative political forces with an excuse for a crackdown tivists attempting to challenge the Com- growth of 6 percent

servatism in a leadership fearful of social unrest, analysts say. "They don't want to see a rep-

lication of Poland under Communist rule, where the Solidarity tradeunion movement mushroomed into a broader opposition movement," said David Shambaugh, director of the China Policy Program at George Washingtoo University.
Vietnam's Communist Party.

like its Chinese counterpart, has been grappling with mounting rural openness, juxtaposed with a period of unrest and discontent. Many of the problems stem from corruption and abuses of power at the local level. The collapse of Europe's Communist governments at the end of

> tries almost alone as the world's last major Communist states. Vietnam has adhered to China's

Communist control. having a nonconvertible currency, except for limited trade purposes.

The apparent ability of China and vantage of socialism," the Xinhua news agency quoted Prime Minister Zhu Rongji as telling his visiting Vietnamese counterpart, Phan Van Khai, in Beijing

China says it expects its economy to show growth of 8 percent this year after China's recent harsh crackdown on ac-inflation, while Vietnam forecasts real

strategy of pursuing limited eco- In Manila, Mr. Ramos fears that the nomic reform without allowing region's crisis could stir up nationalism.

social impact is being felt in cities and Augustine Paul. Like China, it has so far been shielded town across the country as well as in the

In response, the government is warning that dissect will not be tolerated and that stability must be a paramount naoonal concern.

In the past 20 years of East Asia's boom, four countries in the region have replaced authoritarian governing systems with what appear to be durable democracies - South Korea, Taiwan,

Thailand and the Philippines.

Some analysts fear that the increased political openness that emerged from rising standards of living and education, and increased travel and communica-But as in China, economic growth in nion, may be wiped out in much of the poly on power by sening up the country's Vietnam is starting to slow, and the region by recession and its effects.

# MALAYSIA: Anwar Trial Exposes Secrets ecution lawyers defend the police ques

Continued from Page 1

heightened sensitivity surrounding the court case and the possible damage to the government is the issue of a politically andio tane that was introduced that the prosecution will turn the case that the prosecution will be caused the prosecution will be caused to the process that the prosecution will be caused to the process that the pr sensitive andio tape that was introduced in court Wednesday by Mr. Anwar's over to the defense shortly, after they are la wyers. The tape is a conversation be-tweeo a key prosecution witness, Ummi Hafilda Ali, and a businessman, Sng

country's top politicians. When defense lawyers read alond extracts of the taped cooversation in court Wednesday, Miss Ummi, who was on the witness stand, turned pale. Less than an hour later, the judge banned the press from publishing any of its contents until further notice.

Chee Hua. It includes references to the

That night Mr. Sng was called to police headquarters for questioning, a move that defense lawyers protested in court on Thursday.

Your Lordship should make a statement condemning the act of the police," Raja Aziz Addruse, the lead lawyer in Mr. Anwar's defense team, told Judge

"I cannot condemn the police for carrying out their lawful investigation,"

the judge replied.

Defense lawyers have urged the judge to allow the press to publish the contents of the tape, which they believe backs up their assertion that Mr. Anwar is a victim of a government conspiracy to remove him from office.

As for Mr. Sng, who make the cape, defense lawyers say it is unfair for him to propped upright near the judge.

If convicted of the corruption charges. "The investigation should be completed before a person is charged, not

In the context of the trial of Mr. And war, who was brought to court badly. beaten in October, some Malaysians have found the testimony chilling.
The prosecution also called a mani-

who said he had been sodomized by Mr3 Anwar and produced a mattress allegedly stained with semen and taken from an apartment that the prosecution says Mr. Anwar visited frequently. The As for Mr. Sng, who made the tape, mattress has remained in the commont.

Mr. Anwar, 51, faces a maximum sen tence of 56 years. Once this rial is over, he faces sodomy charges, and the atcharged and then investigated. Right?" a defense lawyer, Gurbachan Singh, said torney general has indicated that ad dinional charges can be filed against him. outside the courthouse Thursday. Pros-

leaund Indone

Harma Hanis

.....

New York Times Service

MINSK, Belarus — For four long years, President Alexander Lukashenko has pursued an unlikely obsession: to raise tiny Belarus from the shards of the sundered Soviet Union and remake it into a model socialist state.

Golden Hgg, a shop in the center of this city of 1.7 million, where nearly 100 people lined up in foot-stamping cold on a recent December morning.

Their objective was to get inside the

Most had been waiting for three a hours, since the store opened at 8 A.M.
I can't feel my feet, a fur-swaddled woman said. This is Lukashenko's fault. She refused to give her name, and said. The farther away this is published, the better.
In more ways than one — the food

said, 'The farther away lished, the better.'

In more ways than one — the food rationing, the lines, the ever-shrinking ruble, the undercurrent of fear — Minsk dustry and agriculture but also allows private enterprises to exist. In theory, at least, the government side of the economy competes in the world market as Union began to crumble. For Mr. omy competes in the world market as Lukashenko, that rare head of state who openly, longs for a Soviet restoration. In practice, Mr. Lukashenko has folsuch problems could not have come at a lowed a straightforward fiscal policy: Instralia Hay Illeral Immin worse time.

1 Belarus' socialism dovetails with a larger ambition Mr. Lukashenko har-bors: a merger of Belaus with Russia, thus beginning a rebuilding of the old Soviet empire. It also would enable him The state of the s to seek the new country's presidency, although he recently insisted this was the arthest thing from his mind.

Such a union would be hard enough

given that Russia has been heading in the opposite direction economically. It would be harder still if the stambling

bet duty Sunday the first regiment of its new single-warhead intercontinental ballistic missile, the Topol-M, but the milestone came amid intense debate at the highest levels of the Russian military over who will control the nuclear forces. The first group of 10 solid-fueled Topol-M missiles, located at a base in the Boris Yeltsin of Russia proposed to be gin next year to unify the two countries was commissioned by Defense Minister leconomies under a single currency. 14 portation

in Russia's so-called Red Belt, a devotedly Communist strip of Russia south of Moscow, and the region's governors are frequent visitors to Minsk. He has surfaced in Russian presidential polls, and few believe his demals of interest in ruling a united Russia and Belarus.

politically clamsy and mostly un-popular faction, Mr. Lukashenko might be a contender — if he gained an entry to Russian politics.

A charismatic ruler with a handpicked Parliament and a base of peasant support, he appears con-cerned enough about the future to Lately, it seems he has succeeded all begin shoring up his position. He amounced plans this month to block his few political opponents and created a so-called emergency head-Golden Hgg, a shop in the center of this staples like eggs and milk to store shelves.

a recent December morning.

He also has persuaded the World

Their objective was to get inside the Bank and the International Monetary
store and buy the allotted maximum of Fund to withhold judgment on Be-20 eggs each.

Most had been waiting for three hours, since the stone opened at 8 A.M. more money to the government—by I can't feel my feet, a fur-swaddled by promising economic reforms.

By Western standards, there is a

lot to reform. Mr. Lukashenko, who

ran a collective farm before entering Presidents Lukashenko and Yeltsin after the signing of the currency accord.

they are 100 high. The result is inflation \$40 from \$70. And that depends on how

top," said Stanislav Bagdankevich, who for the Belarusian ruble, with the value quit as head of the national bank in 1995 and now heads an opposition party. than 350,000 rubles.

"The private sector is dictated what to In practice, Mr. Lukashenko has folproduce, and what price to sell it at. It's a fostered a black market in food, to farmlowed a straightforward fiscal policy: Bolshevik forced economy."

and shortages.

one measures income: At last count, there were five separate exchange rates

ers' ruination. The country's artificially

up the food and smuggle it to Ukraine or Russia, where it is resold for a healthy profit. It is now illegal to export food without a permit.

In fact, the problem in Belarus is not so much that food is not available - privately run markets have abund-

ant supplies of many staples — as that Belarusians cannot afford it.

In the jam-packed public market in Minsk, state-owned meat vendors this month offered strips of gristly, bone-ridden beef for 170,000 rubles. I somewhere between 40 cents and \$2. depending on the exchange rate), the price dictated by the state. Across the aisle, private vendors were selling

thick, lean steaks for 450,000 rubles.
Even 170,000 rubles was too much for one elderly woman, who said as she walked away that she lived on a pension of only 1.5 million rubles a pension of only 1.5 million rubles a month.

Industry is in no better shape. Westerners buy little, in part because factories in Belarus are so hobbled by economic controls that they spend little money to modernize and are no longer competitive. Russia, the biggest trading partner by far, is now too hard-pressed itself to bny many of the televisions and tractors produced in Belarus. Yet factories continue producing.

Desperate as conditions might appear. bowever, virtually nobody is writing off Mr. Lukashenko. Even opposition lead-He prints money when the nation runs

The average citizen's monthly inshort, and he caps prices when he thinks

The average citizen's monthly income has slumped since July to about crops at a loss, while entrepreneurs snap

especially in rural areas. BRIEFLY

# Chechnya Finds Foreigners' Bodies

GROZNY, Rossia -- The bodies of four foreigners who were beheaded this month in Chechnya will be sent to Britain and New Zealand as early as Monday, officials said

Sunday.

The bodies of the four men were found Saturday evening in the village of Chemorechiye, on the out-skirts of the Chechen capital, Grozny. Doctors confirmed the identity of the bodies Sunday, according in Chechnya's prosecumr-general, Mansur Tagirov. (AP)

# Britain to Test Cannabis Therapy

LONDON - Britain is moving toward official approval of its first mass testing of the therapeutic affects of cannabis, involving more than 1,000 patients. The Sunday

Telegraph reported.
The paper said guidelines for the tests would be set out by the Medical Research Council and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on Jan. 11.

The move follows increasing anecdotal evidence that cannabis can help alleviate the pain from some medical conditions. (AFP)

# Ankara Seeks to Aid Prospective Leader

ANKARA — Prime Minister-designate Yalim Erez will start try-ing to form the sixth Turkish gov-ernment in three years Monday, bolstered by weekend gestures of snpport from the head of state.

President Suleyman Demirel said Saturday that he would not use his constitutional power to call snap elections even if Mr. Erez proved unable to forge a government in the next two weeks. (Reuters)

### A Pax Romana?

ROME - A leading Italian labor union is arging a moratorium on public-service strikes in Rome during the 2000 Jubilee, when 20 million pilgrims are expected for fes-tivities kicking off Christianity's third millennium.

Transport Minister Tiziano Treu welcomed the call Sunday but said it did not go far enough.

# Russians Deploy New Missile as Military Bickers

By David Hoffman

MUSCOW - Russia placed on combut duty Sunday the first regiment of its

economies under a single currency.

It is also a prospect that elevates Mr.

Lukashenko from garden-variety autocrat to a man the West is beginning to
watch with some dismay. Mr. Lukashenko has spent considerable time stumping.

In Russia's so-called Red Relt, a de-

The weapon is designed to replace the multiple-warhead land-based missiles seen as the biggest threat to the United States from the former Soviet Union. The multiple-warhead missiles are

Years behind schedule, the Topol-M suffered a setback in October when its fifth test flight failed. The sixth flight, on Dec. 9, was successful. The deployment comes as Mr.

Sergeyev is caught in a bitter dispute over the future of Russia's nuclear forces, which have become the backbone of its deterrent as conventional armies and apons are seriously deteriorating. The debate has become heated over the

command of nuclear forces, which was rarely discussed in public before. The arguments have been laid out in dueling essays published in the military weekly Nezavishnoye Voyennoye Obozreniye. At issue is Mr. Sergeyev's recent pro-posal to establish a single command over all nuclear forces. Mr. Sergeyev said Nov. 3 that President Boris Yeltsin had

initialed a document approving the idea. But there has been stiff resistance from

by the Russian Parliament, although it staff, which would oversee the various without serious problems. Because of may come to a vote early next year.

services in combat. Mr. Sergeyev has obsolescence, arms-control treaties and proposed creating a separate organiza- lack of money, Russia's strategic forces sian nuclear weapons, whether on subproposed including in the new command the 12th Main Directorate of the Defense ried out. Ministry, which is in charge of main-taining the nuclear stockpile.

Mr. Sergeyev has said he would like the new command to be headed by his protégé, General Vladimir Yakovlev, the current head of the rocket forces. who would be elevated to first deputy minister of defense. A source said Mr. Sergeyev saw implementation of his plan as urgent because it is unlikely he will serve beyond the expiration of Mr. Yeltsia's term in summer 2000.

Mr. Sergeyev's proposal is in keeping with Russia's current national security doctrine, which emphasizes the impor-The multiple-warhead missiles are the general staff.

banned by the START-2 strategic arms

Currently, control over nuclear at a time when conventional forces are relied heavily on Ukraine treaty, which still has not been ratified weapons passes through the general decaying. But the nuclear forces are not an independent country.

tion that would be in charge of all Rus- are shrinking rapidly. Submarines, missiles and aircraft from the Soviet era are marines, long-range bombers or land-based missiles. Mr. Sergeyev also has life span. The Topol-M has been one of the very few modernization projects car-But members of the general staff have scoffed at the idea of investing more

money in a new organization while the military budget is extraordinarily slim. They have also pointed ont the potential for confusion if conventional forces are under one command and nuclear forces under another. Alexander Lebed, the Krasnoyarsk

governor and a former general, has joined opposition to Mr. Sergeyev's plan, which he denounced as "impossible to create."
Mr. Lebed said, "We must not complicate an already complicated system."
The Topol-M missiles are the first developed within Russia; Soviet models

relied heavily on Ukraine, which is now

# GERMANY: Election Gains Give Ex-Communists Respectability

Continued from Page 1

imprisoned after the fall of the Berlin

. To the party's critics, the idea of amnesty only hardens suspicions that the former Communists have yet to accept fully the principles of democracy and the German Constitution. The party, critics say, does not seem to care about the Cold

War victims of the old regime.

The PDS is and remains a wolf in sheep's clothing," said Cornelia Pieper, a leader in the opposition Free Democratic Party.

Nowhere is the debate more wrench. ing than within the ranks of the left-leaning Social Democratic Party of leaning Social Democratic Party of Democratic tract against the former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. Unable Communists. "They are not a risk to to reconcile its own stance toward the democracy, but they slow the acceptance former Communists, Mr. Schroeder's of democracy in the Bast. They confuse party is sauggling with a widening split the learning process. tween members who ostracize the PDS and those who embrace it by cocouraging power-sharing alliances at the state and local level.

The former Communists are "one of each year as the elderly die off, but it still the biggest unitations in the process of German unification," according to an angry manifesto written last month by four leading Social Democrats, who reject any moves that enhance the reectability of the Party of Democratic

Socialism. By getting in bed with the PDS at the local level, the Social Democrats only and integration," Mr. Holter said of the alliance with the Social Democrats.

In elected state official. "This will create a new social climate of reconciliation and integration," Mr. Holter said of the alliance with the Social Democrats.

Not everyone agrees. The increasingly Inc Social Democrats fear. That is

Not everyone agrees. The increasingly agree to backfire, they warn, as the bigger assertive anti-PDS faction of the Social party effectively fosters a rival to its Democrats argues that the former Comlect that invariably will drain votes.

Some assert that the former Communists remain a purely Eastern phenomenon and thus unable to heal Germanic and the statement of the community of the commun

munists still harbor anti-Western, anti-American and anti-capitalist tendencies : behind the face it presents to the public. "The PDS has significant difficulties in accepting Western values of democracy, private property and the NATO ties that were acquired by the West Germans after 1945," said Klans-Dienmar Henke, irector of the Hannah Arendt Institute for Research of Totalitarianism in

for Research of Potalitariams in Dresden.

Such reservations appeared to matter little in the Sept. 27 national elections, when the party outstripped nearly everyone's expectations. In its power base in the East, it gathered slightly more than a fifth of the votes compared with a scant 1.2 percent in the West. The Free Democrats and Greens, both influential in the West polled for behind the former Com-West, polled far behind the former Communists in the East.

For the first time, the party appears in the Bundestag with full parliamentary status after winning more than 5 percent of the total national vote, cleaning a threshold meant to bar extremists. That allows it to nominate a deputy speaker, sit on committees and receive funds for a research institute. In the previous Par-

research historic. In the previous rat-imment, the party, with 4.4 percent, got into the Bundesing on a technicality, by winning three districts. The former Communists scored another first in a separate statehouse race on the same day in the struggling Eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The party became the junior partner in a

when they comented the alliance last mouth.

By joining the government in Mecklenburg's capital city of Schwerin, the Party of Democratic Socialism auto-

The PDS is a protest party," said Richard Schroeder, a professor in Berlin and one of the anthors of the Social

More than half of the party's 95,000 members are retired, making it only a shadow of its 22 million-member precursor. Its ranks shrink by the thousands

politics in Moscow in the 1980s and now rides in a chauffeured Audi limousine as an elected state official. "This will cre-

many's inner divide. Indeed, they say, it is unfit to represent even Eastern Germany because 80 percent of the Easterners con-

state government coalition led by the sistently vote against it. "The vast malocal Social Democrats, who had the backing of the party leadership in Bonn selves from the PDS," the four Social Democratic critics wrote in their treatise.

Similar controversy has split other parties. Heiner Geissler accused his cenier-right Christian Democratic Party of the Party of Democratic Socialism automatically installed a representative in the Bundesrat, the upper house of the national Parliament. The party already props up a minority Social Democratic Government in the Eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt. is conceivable, reaped nothing but bitter criticism.

'Geissler is talking sheer rubbish,' the Christian Democratic Party chairman, Wolfgang Schaeuble, said last

week. But only two months before, Mr. Schaeuble made overtures to individual former Communists to switch parties.

PDS leaders justify the calls for amnesty for crimes during the Cold War, arguing that amnesty would belp foster "reconciliation" between the halves of Germany in the words of the present. Germany, in the words of the party's parliamentary leader, Gregor Gysi. The party chairman, Lothar Bisky, said be would like to see the amnestry granted May 23, the 50th anniversary of the German Constitution, which now applies to the whole of the reunited Ger-

The rush by Western politicians to normalize the party stems mainly from the growing importance of Eastern

Mr. Schroeder owes much of his vic-tory to the East, where former Chan-cellor Helmut Kohl's share of the vote fell more than 11 percentage points, to 27.3 percent, from four years earlier. leaving Mr. Schroeder and the former Communists to share the defectors.



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# **Early Elections in Israel**

pected now that Israel has decided to go to early elections, perhaps next spring, rate than to have Benjamin Neturyahu ve out his term in 2000. But that sine insaster. A stalemate with the Palestinians was already in effect as a result of the crisis that developed in Prime Minister Netanyahu's coalition over the Wye accords. The right wing refused to swallow the terms, especially the provision calling for a further withdrawal from the West Bank. Caught between a rejectionist right and a center-left that declined to make a "national unity" government with him, he bad no choice but to agree to

new elections. Even in the volatile Israeli scene. it is hard to imagine that the electorate would restore the very political configuration responsible for this negotiating stalemate. Any new government is going to bave to answer to the polled large majority of voters who favor careful continuation of negotiations with the Palestinians. It could be Mr. Netanyahu who somehow finds a

A delay in the peace talks is ex- pragmatic way toward representing some part of this constituency; or it could be the Labor Party chief, Ehud Barak; or the little-known but popular General Annon Lipkin-Shahak, "the Israeli Colin Powell"; or Likud challenger Dan Meridor. The difference in policy views among the known contenders seems distinctly narrower than the difference in their political styles.

What almost all Israelis seem to agree on is that this is a crucial moment in their country's quest for security, if not for what one would call peace with their Arab neighbors. In Israel's century-old core conflict with Palestinians, a succession of American administrations has helped bring the two sides to a point at which their goals security and statehood, respectively are within reach; within reach, but at cost and risk. As a father of Palestinian nationalism, Yasser Arafat possesses bis own political resources. For Israel, its democratic nature compels the politicians to seek electoral authorization of the gravest national choices. -THE WASHINGTON POST:

# A Year for Campaign Reform

feeling anything but festive about their politics. But the raging debate over President Bill Clinton is only one factor in the public's growing alienation from a system more attuned to partisan tactics than the general good. A separate blow to public faith has arisen recently, with the virtual nullification of nearly a century of laws seeking to curb campaign fund-raising. Last summer, the House passed campaign finance reform legislation, only to see it die in the Senate. As a result, the nation's two biggest political parties have completed their transformation from representing popular constituencies to serving as fundraising machines that cater to special

In the election last November, voter turnout dropped to the lowest levels since World War IL But in the next year, Americans will have a new opportunity to escue their political culture from the grap of corruption and cynicism. They can press Congress to restore the fundraising rules guiding campaigns since 1907, when the ban on corporate donations to federal elections was enacted. In 1947, union donations were outlawed. In 1974 strict ceilings were placed on donations by rich individuals and politicalaction committees. Now these laws have all been circumvented by the deviously conceived fiction that the parties can raise so-called soft money outside federal regulations, as long as it is ostensibly for the parties, not for candidates, and as long as the money is used for "issue ads" that do not use the magic words "vote for" or "vote against."

The soft-money loophole was first paign. By 1996, Mr. Clinton and his Republican rival, Bob Dole, elevated it to a high art. The two parties combined raised and spent \$260 million in soft money that year, and the White House opened its doors to Lincoln Bedroom sleep-overs, coffees and other receptions for eager donors, Mr. Clinton could say that these unlimited sums from corporations, rich donors and unions were going to the party and therefore were legal. But the contributors all knew they were buying influence with the Clinton administration.

The scariest aspect of the White House fund-raising was the willingness to have the soft-money loophole exploited by foreign interests. Some \$3 million in contributions had to be renumed by the Democrats because it was found to have originated overseas. This month. The New York Times reported that investigators had found a systematic effort by China to gain access to technology and perhaps influence American policies - lust as Taiwan and other governments bave done, by openme their checkbooks to lobbyists and other agents - though no link to the party contributions was established. In October, a federal district judge ruled that the ban on foreign campaign donations did not apply to soft money. If that ruling stands, or Congress does not quickly revise the statute to broaden the ban on foreign contributions, the softmoney toophole guarantees more attempts by foreign and domestic interests to corrupt the system.

Not that the Republicans were blameless. They deploted Mr. Clinton's excesses, but the 1997 Senate hearings led by Fred Thompson demonstrated that the Republicans also tapped foreign

In this holiday season, Americans are money in 1996. The Republicans engaged in their own domestic money abuses as well. In return for six-figure donations, a Republican soft-money contributor could get meetings with Republican congressional leaders and committee chairmen. Money from oil, gas and mining interests led to Republican attempts to open up wilderness areas to exploitation and ease laws on

clean air and clean water. In 1997, Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, flew to Las Vegas with his chief fund-raiser, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, to harvest money from gambling interests. This year the Senate killed efforts to eliminate certain tax breaks for big-time gamblers.

Tobacco is another industry for which money talks. Mr. McConnell has been especially adept at harvesting tobacco money and then killing any chance of tough legislation that would crack down on tobacco products. But there has been a bipartisan cast to the special-interest game, Republicans and Democrats alike favor "privatizing" at least a part of Social Security to create independent investment accounts, offering a bonanza for the financial-services industry, which would invest the pension money.

That industry just happens to be the biggest donor to both parties.

There was a chance this year that these corrupt schemes would be ended by administrative action. But in an un-forgivable dereliction of duty, Attorney General Janet Reno failed to pursue the clear violation of the letter and spirit of the campaign laws. Both Louis Freeh, picked investigator into the election scandals, Charles La Bella, recommended an independent counsel to investigate the subject. She refused.

The paradox is that clear majorities in both the Senate and House favor campaign reform. Last summer, the House approved legislation sponsored by Christopher Shays of Connecticut and Martin Meehan of Massachusetts to curb fund-raising excesses, by a vote of 252 to 179. The Shays-Mechan bill would have banned soft money and applied all existing federal restrictions to party fund-raising and fund-raising by so-called independent groups when the money is used for campaign-related attack ads broadcast two months before an election. The Congress should also replace the lame Federal Election Commission with a serious

enforcement agency.

Many ailments, large and small, af-flict the American political system right now. No one is pretending that campaign finance reform, by itself, will cure corruption or ease the voters' cynicism. These are not revolutionary changes. What is needed is a restoration of a system that has existed for most of modern American history. If the current system is not changed, the candidates will likely raise and spend \$500 million to \$750 million in unlimited soft-money donations from corporations, unions and rich donors in the next two years. Whoever is elected, the legislative and executive branches of government will be more and more beholden to the forces that give the money. That corruption cannot be allowed. Reform can happen, if the voters demand it and lawmakers

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

# The Old World of Europe Is Entering a New Era

WASHINGTON — Europe's ma-jor powers end the year in motion. They have fashioned a flurry of fresh initiatives from the arrival of a new government in Germany, a new concern in Britain about trans-Atlantic relations and a new look in France at European defense.

As important as the content of the initiatives is the way in which they are tentious issues. being shaped: without decisive input from the United States, even on issues that involve vital U.S. interests.

The Europeans are not dispensing with the indispensable nation. Some of their moves are intended - in their eyes at least — to strengthen ties with Washington. Even the French are being careful to avoid open challenges to U.S. leadership in Europe on political and defense issues.

But the palpable mood of ferment in European institutions has provoked questions from the Clinton administration to its chief European allies about the pace and direction of an eco-nomic, political and defense integra-tion within the 15-nation European Uuion. Washington favors integration up to a point.

The defeat in September of Helmnt Kohl in the German elections by a Social Democrat-Green coalition under Gerhard Schroeder has created a By Jim Hoagland

new political tone in Europe. Eleven of the EU's governments are now led by Socialists or other center-left parties. They speak something of a common political language, even if national interests still dictate their stands on con-

German interests are now asserted by Mr. Schroeder's government without the deference Mr. Kohl gave Paris on European unity and Washington on elobal issues. This is a generational change as much as a political one. And it must be taken into account as the Berlin republic gives notice it is no longer the willing paymaster for European construction or a silent partner on NATO strategy.

The second driving force for political and policy adjustments on both sides of the Atlantic is the creation of a new European currency, the euro, which becomes a unit of account for 11 EU members on New Year's Day.

It will be two years before the euro replaces the franc, mark, peseta and other currencies in daily use and five or more years before it begins to rival the dollar as an international medium of exchange. But the coordinated interest rate cut by 11 central banks on Dec. 3, time signed up to defense policies

strated that the euro is already a force to be reckoned with.

This is even — perhaps especially — true for Tony Blair's New Labour majority in Britain, which has opted to stay out of the euro zone in its first parliamentary term. Mr. Blair is determined to show that Britain will not be frozen out of Europe's significant decisions on unity simply because his government is not in on the curo ground floor.

U.S. officials assume that is one reason Britain has been so active in recent weeks on the European defense front. After proposing a serious review of Europe's defense capabilities, Mr. Blair joined President Jacques Chirac of France on Dec. 4 in signing a "Joint Declaration on European Defense," the sweep of which caught Clinton policymakers by surprise.

The declaration represents movement by both Paris and London toward a European command structure within NATO that would give EU bodies new responsibilities and powers. NATO would remain primarily responsible for European defense - France dropped some of its long-standing theology on that point — while Britain for the first

which was smoothly managed by the new European Central Bank, demonstrated in and by the EU.

But Mr. Blair seems to have more in mind than merely balancing off Britain's absence in monetary integration. He also is said to be looking forward to the 50th anniversary NATO summit in Washington in April, when he feels Europe must show Congress that it is prepared to shoulder more responsibilities in any future Bosnia or Kosovo or risk a significant U.S. backlash.

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Europe at large is anxious about the administration's planning for the anniversary summit meeting, on which Washington will spend \$20 million to \$30 million. Europeans fear the April celebration will degenerate into an exercise in American Cold War triumphalism, a political glorification of Bill Clinton to salve his domestic wounds, or both.

Putting such a cast on the meeting would be a strategic error in the coming year, which will be one of significant change in and for Europe.

No one is likely to proclaim 1999 the Year of Europe. Too many remember the disasters that befell the Continent when 1973 was so dubbed. But Americans will want to watch the old Continent closely as it finally moves from the Cold War to the cusp of a new millennium and a new era.

The Washington Post.

# A U.S. Church Group in China Is Fooled Again

BOSTON — There was a time when Andrew Young speak out on their behalf and had no difficulty recognizing persecution. There was a time condemn the Communist re-

tims and made no excuses for oppressors. But the civil rights move-ment in which Mr. Young rose to prominence ended long ago. His mentor, Martin Luther King, has been gone these 30 years. And the moral stature Mr.
Young acquired in his youth be seems willing to squander as he approaches old age.

when he lifted his voice for vic-

Mr. Young recently traveled to China with a small delegation from the National Council of Churches, of which he is president-elect. China is in its fourth year of a brotal government crackdown on Christian religious activity; more than 140 underground courch members have been arrested in just the last few weeks. Mr. Young might have been expected to By Jeff Jacoby to any overseas entity.

gime for its cruelty. He might have been expected, for example, to demand justice for Cheng Meiying — an evangel-ist from Hunan Province who was arrested Oct. 26 and taken to the prison in Wugang, where the police beat and whipped her so ferociously that she became brain-damaged.
What Mr. Young said, bowever, was: "We found no to condemn abortion.

sign of religious repression.' And: "Did we find religious freedom in the U.S. sense? No. But we found no ... active per-

To be sure, it is no crime to be a Christian in the People's Republic of China - so long as you worship in an officially registered "patriotic" church, with ministers who have been approved by the Communist anti-religious bigotry. Ye Xi-

Party and who renounce all ties

Which means that it is crime for a Chinese Catholic to proclaim the authority of the Pope. It is a crime to hold a prayer meeting in an unofficial "house church." It is a crime to travel the country and preach the Gospel. It is a crime to speak in tongues, to baptize children, to teach of a second coming, or

Has the National Council of Churches anything to say about this? It does. "Christians in declared the group's general secretary, Joan Brown Campbell, 'are terribly offen-ded at the tide of rumor that there's widespread, terrible persecution and asked us to advocate for a more accurate portrayal of their situation."

Beijing makes no secret of its

aowen, head of the Religious campaign" for "moral renew-Affairs Bureau, calls house al" that "emphasized commu-Affairs Bureau, calls bouse churches "evil, illegal organizations that undermine social order." But Mr. Young and his group, blind to the suffering of their fellow Christians, give their seal of approval to the world's largest dictatorship. Walter Winchell remarked in

1938 that the reason Neville Chamberlain flew to Munich to see Hitler was because "you can't lick a man's boots over the phone." It is not hard to figure out wby Andrew Young flew to China.

The bootlicking of totalitarians is an old story with the National Council of Churches. In 1978 it published "China." Search for Community," which described the Cultural Revolution - a time of heart-stopping savagery, when Mao's Red Guards imprisoned, tortured, or killed tens of thousands of victims — as an "outstanding"

nity interest, anti-elitism, commitment to revolutionary social goals, dignity of manual labor. equality of women and men. and education for the common people." A decade later a council of

ficial told Congress that North Koreans - then ruled by Kim II Sung, a Stalinist tyrant - "are proud of their beautiful cities, schools, health facilities, apartments, immigration projects, dams, and locks." So nothing has changed at the

National Council of Churches. This Christmas, millions of Chinese Christians have at great risk celebrated the birth of their savior. May God watch over them and shield them from harm. The National Council of Churches surely won't.

The writer is a columnist for

# A Few Historical Reflections on the Censure Option

were furious that Mr. Truman had sacked the national hero for insubordination. The House Republican leader Joe Martin and Senator Bill Jenner of Indiana threatened impeachment, but Senator Richard Nixou of California had a better idea. Mr. Nixon "proposed a Senate resolution of censure, saying the president 'has not acted in the best interests of the American people.''

This nugget of history, retrieved from the microfilm files of The Washington Post, sheds

CINGAPORE — The re-

Ocent visit of Prime Min-

ister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan

to the United States

strengthened the general im-

pression that peace or war in

South Asia hinge on the run-

ning sore of Kashmir and nu-

But they are really only the

symptoms of a much deeper

tension that must be addressed

if the two neighbors are ever to

live in harmony. Even if some

magic wand were to wish away

both problems, the underlying

insecurity and mistrust would

surface in some other way un-

less India and Pakistan can

bring themselves to shape a fu-

ture that reflects their shared

past. That would flesh out the

dream of a South Asian eco-

nomic union that also embraces

Bangladesh, Nepal, Bbutan, Sri

The latest proposal for an

"economic bridge" to make cooperation attractive and

political squabbling unre-

warding, mooted by India's

Hindu nationalist Bharatiya

Janata Party government,

might have a chance of suc-

ceeding, but only if two con-

ditions are met. First, Pakistan

must reconcile itself to geo-

political reality. And second,

India must pursue seriously

the imaginative concept of

asymmetrical relations that a

former Indian prime minister.

Inder Kumar Gujral, saw as

the only answer to the chal-

Religion is part of the prob-

lenge of disparity.

Lanka and the Maldives.

clear one-npmanship.

Clinton, rather than subject him to an impeachment trial in the Senate, has impeccable sponsorship and motivation. Former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter have unveiled their version of the idea. "The time has come," they wrote, "to put aside political differences and plant seeds of justice and reconciliation."

Former Senator Bob Dole is lobbying for such a solution. generously seeking to rescue the Democrat who defeated him for the presidency in 1996 from

Time for Subcontinental Realism

lem, but its divisive effect is

easily exaggerated since as

many Muslims live in Hindu-

majority India as in Islamic

Pakistan. More relevant is the

search in both countries for a

viable identity. India's rela-

tive success in forging a sense

ethnic and communal hiccups,

became clear in August when

politicians across the spec-

trum united to foil the BJP's

attempt to give education a

treat to Koranic law, ignoring

the white stripe in the country's

flag that Pakistan's founding

father, Mohammed Ali Jinnah,

inserted to represent the mainly

Hindu minority, indicates that

Pakistan is still groping for a

Sharif argue, as he did during

his 1990-93 incarnation as

prime minister, that the bomb

was needed not to defend or

deter, but to make "it clear to responsible international powers [read the United

States] that Pakistan should be

treated at par with India in the

That India remains the

primary reference point for

Pakistan's rulers after 51 years

of sovereign existence exposes

a lack of confidence that also

explains Islamabad's desperate

attempts to turn its back on

cultural and historical links in

the subcontinent and seek iden-

tification instead with the Tribune.

world community."

Jinnah would also have

been grieved to hear Mr. roit statements, U.S. diplomats

In contrast, Mr. Sharif's re-

Hindu gloss.

national culture.

of secular nationhood, despite

By Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Mr. Clinton's ouster does not

diminish the public-spiritedness of their action. After the searing partisanship of the House impeachment process, a bipartisan censure resolution that would bring an end to this sad chapter of White House history has enormous appeal. Still, it may be better to consider the implications now, rather than sumble over them

after the fact. Censure is not mentioned in the constitution, but neither are many other accepted features of

Middle East and Central Asia.

til Pakistan accepts that geog-raphy is destiny. The advant-ages of India's size (four times

Pakistan's), population (seven times bigger), industrial base,

and engineering and scientific

However, no amount of con-

cessions by Prime Minister Atal

Bihari Vajpayee will have the slightest effect unless the Amer-

icans, who built up Pakistan

militarily during the Cold War, accept the need for rapproche-

ment on a durable basis.

Pakistan's tit-for-tat nuclear

tests in May were the direct

outcome of decades of U.S. in-

doctrination that the much smal-

ler country must match its big-

Instead of scurrying around trying to unscramble unclear

arsenals or aggravating the

Kashmir dispute with malad-

should convince Islamabad

that no Indian government

would compound its domestic

problems by swallowing. 134

million truculent Pakistanis.

Nor would India be at all com-

fortable if Pakistan's disinteg-

ration led to the emergence of a

damentalist states on its west-

A strong and self-confident

The writer, a former editor

of The Statesman in India.

contributed this comment to

the International Herald

Pakistan can only contribute to

India's security and stability.

number of unstable ethnic-fun-

ern flank.

ger neighbor in every way.

skills will not go away.

The complex will persist un-

sequent Congress. But that is not a fatal flaw.

It is a reminder, however, that we have little basis for judging the effect of such a resolution, or even how seriously it would be taken by the target of the verbal spanking. Mr. Clinton is famous for his ability to compartmentalize, and even if be were required to sign a censure resolution, he might consign it to the most remote comer of his consciousness.

Many of the same Democrat-19 professed their willingness to censure Mr. Clinton for having "egregiously failed" in his responsibilities and "dishonored the office" of president, were by afternoon backslapping the same man and cheering him as "one of our greatest presidents," to quote Vice President Al Gore.

At a minimum, that White House spectacle must raise questions whether censure by Congress would be greeted with more than a shrug by this president on his way to a fund-raiser or a round of golf.

The more serious question is what precedent would be es-tablished by the legislative branch m opening a new avenue to admonish a collateral branch of government. Presidents often

WASHINGTON — On April 11, 1951, Congress was up in arms about President Harry Truman's dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur as General Douglas MacArthur as President Bill Clinton by a simple controversy over President Bill C ate, in part because such an ac-... tiou lacked any modern precedent. But now one may be

created. Once established, it could be used often - to reprimand the judicial branch as well as the executive. Under Chief Justice Earl. Warren, the Supreme Court regularly outraged Congress with its decisions on civil-rights, reapportionment of vot ing districts, criminal rights and

banning school prayer.
Congress never attempted seic House members who on Dec. riously to impeach Earl Warren But majorities were certainly ready to censure his decisions. What would the impact of such a censure have been on respect for the court and confpliance with its rulings? No one can say.

in say.

Separation of powers is central to the structure of our government. When one branch starts handing out formal report ards on another, it certainly eparts from the constitution ad it may produce dangerous onsequences.

The constitution's remember of cards on another, it certainly departs from the constitution and it may produce dangerous consequences.

for serious charges of abuse of executive or judicial office is impeachment. The inconvenience of a Senate trial must be weighed against the potential costs of "the Nixon solution." The Washington Post.

# IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Dog fashion PARIS - Says the "Daily Chronicle": In spite of the ri-

dicule that has been cast upon it. the absurd practice of providing costumes for canine pers still prevails in Paris. In the windows of the dog tailors may be seen little astrakhan overcoats with linings of pink or blue sain. For traveling there are lighter wrappers fastened round the waist by belts of tanned leather. Every well-dressed dog has a collar appropriate to his breed. A Great Dane should wear Mexican iguana skin. For smaller animals fashion dictates a white calf-skin necklet set with turquoises.

1923: No Longer Heir COPENHAGEN - Having

publicly announced his engage ment to Miss Lois Booth, of Ottawa, Prince Erik, first cousin to the King, has renounced his title of "Prince of Denmark"

and all claims to the throne. The King has consented to the marriage. Miss Booth is the granddaughter of Mr. John R. Booth, known as the Canadian Lumber King. Prince Erik, who has been ranching for some years in Western Canada, met Miss Booth at Lake Louise. The marriage is expected to take place in the spring at Ottawa.

### 1948: Cardinal Held BUDAPEST - Hungary's

primate, Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, was detained on charges of planning to overthrow the Reof planning to overthrow the ke-public, espionage, treason, and black-market currency dealings. black-market currency dealings.
The development brought to a head the bitter struggle in Hindle gary between the Church and points: his opposition to nationalization of Catholic schools, and his contacts with American relief organizations.

# Herald Eribune

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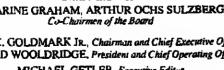
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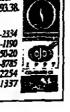
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# It's Time for 'Nyah, Nyah - Gotcha!'

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — This space has been hijacked this week by the

me; its motto.)
From N. Lewis of Croydon, New
Hampshire: "You write, 'A column in Hampshire: Tou write, A communities space fitled "The Asian Connection" had just appeared, followed the next day by a front-page article about John Huang's fund-raising in The Wall-Street Journal.

"John Huang was doubtless a very active fellow, but I doubt he was engaged in fund-raising in The Wall Street Journal."

Max Culpa for Mayor. Huang was surely not chasing the editor Robert Bartley down that newspaper's cor-ridors seeking contributions to the

Clinton campaign.

A prepositional phrase like in The is historical, but only the Wall Street Journal is a modifier and orable ones are historic." should cozy up intimately to the noun it modifies, lest another, closer noun be mistaken for the term being modified. In this case, the noun phrase being modified was a front-page article, but I put so many words in between that it is possible to think that fund-raising was the modified term. The philologist Richard Lederer had a good example of this abuse of prepositional-phrase position: 'Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg' Address while traveling from Wash-

From Ed Cashin of Hastings-on-sword. Hudson, New York: "You say, 'He offers the other two branches of government the choice," but you mean "the

comes after words that are determiners, make a noun phrase specific. Thus, when I wrote the other two branches, it could be thought to stand against these two branches -- totaling, as my eagleeyed critic observes, four branches. When you order toast beef au jus,

only three branches exist.

stand corrected, and in turn correct Gotcha! Gang, a growing legion of David Schippers, majority counsel of readers who take pretermanual delight in exposing the grammatical errors of the House Indicatry Committee, for his in exposing the grammatical errors of castigation of the president's disdain for the integrity of the other two "No Hayen for the Mayen." (Excuse coequal brancher." Cashin is hereby appointed recording secretary of the Nit-pickers' League, a highly sophisticated subgroup of the Gotchal Gang whose membership is in constant turmoil about writing its name Nitpicker's

> Two weeks ago, in reviewing Bryan Garner's Dictionary of Modern American Usage, I misquoted him by writing that "that historic differentiation" between enormity ("outrageousness") and enormousness ("hugeness") should be upheld.

Gamer correctly wrote historical. Robert Burchfield's New Fowler's Modern English Usage quotes a for-getful maven on that: 'Any past event is historical, but only the most mem-

Now to the alleged mistake that drew the most mail. In a line about the pronunciation of status, I wrote, "That is usually pronounced STAT-us, as in statistics, by the highfolutin, and STATE-us by the hol polloi." From Jim Tart of Dallas: "My

daughter Katie tells me that her eighth-Address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope."

Grade teacher would have smacked her in the head with her grammar book had she said 'the hoi polloi.' Katie says hoi polloi means 'the masses,' and therefore should never be proceeded by the.

Live by the sword and die by the sword are interview.

Thank you, Mr. Tart. (And when Katie comes by with her spelling book opened to precede, watch your head.) two other branches.' Otherwise, we Cariously, this seeming redundancy in would have four branches of govern-regard to a foreign phrase apparently ment." inforiates Greek scholars. "Wrong!" You know, he has got a point. I never shouts Stephen Esrati of Shaker thought of that before. Other is called a Heights, Ohio. "Ho! means the." No 'postdeterminer' because it usually doubt about that. Wrote Ronald Serafine of Butler, Pennsylvania: "Oue like numerals or other quantifiers that does not say 'the hoi polloi' for the same reason that one does not say with au jus.' How plead you?"

Innocent with an explanation, your honor. Take that French phrase first:

branches, there could be no doubt that the French for "in its juice" (literally, My three branches exist.

"with juice"). Your waitness is in error
Some would call this pedantry, but I if she treats that phrase as a norm and asks, "You want the au jus on the side?" Correct her, and you will soon have a chemise au jus. In the same way, if you correct an inviter who writes.
"Please R.S.V.P.," you won't get asked again to Repondez s'il vous plait

asked again to Repondez s'il vous pialt (literally, "Respond, if you please").

Those are two-language redundancies not yet given absolution hy all-forgiving usage. When we speak of "the hoi polloi," however, we are firmly grounded in an error that common usage over centuries has erased. Certainly, the hoi polloi translates formally and redundantly as "the the masses," causing speakers of Greek and members of the Squad Squad to look at you with disdain. But the Eng-lish idiom is the hoi polloi. Sometime

next century, we will write that as hotpolloi to reflect its Anglicization.
Robert Burchfield, in the third edition of Fowler's, calls the hidebound resistance to the in front of the Greek phrase "an attempt to force Greek grammar on the receiving language."
He writes: "Dryden and Byron wrote
'the oi polloi' and who is to quarrel with them? And who is prepared to 'correct' W.S. Gilbert's lines from "Iolanthe," Twould fill with joy. And madness stark/the oi polloi (a Greek

remark)"?" Though willing to go along with the usage roundbeels on permitting that redundancy, I hang tough on semantics: The meaning of the hoi polloi should remain "the masses," or in less-Marxist-sounding terms, "ordin-

When the writer Pete Hamili told the interviewer Charlie Rose, "Sinatra threw a party for Agnew in Palm Springs with all the hoi polloi in attendance," Francis Dyer of New York objected, noting that the phrase had not taken on a new meaning of "important people, upper classes or 'swells.'

That upside-down usage occurs often. The confusion comes from the similarity of the noun hoi polloi and the adjective hoity-toity, a rbyming compound from the English dialect term hoit, "to play the fool," which has come to mean "foolishly snooty." (What a pleasure it is to get back to correcting other people's mistakes.)
New York Times Service

### **BOOKS**

DRAGONFLY NASA and the Crisis Aboard Mir

By Bryan Burrough. 528 pages.

\$26.95. HarperCollins. Reviewed by Peter Maass.

Reviewed by Peter Maass sagging spirits of his Russian crew sagging spirits of his Russian crew sagging spirits of his Russian crew mates by showing, on a computer mon-forced attention on the fascinating into the his ploy worked.

There follows: There is the heat of the heat. neavens on rockets that make the ground seemed a bit stage managed, but you commander, later told Burrough, would need to be heartless not to draw The outlines of the draws on I some satisfaction from the show. NASA already known - the decay of the has launched itself into a public relations craft's mechanical systems after 11 lations. orbit, getting high-fives from the public

and politicians. It is easy to forget that just a year ago NASA was mired in controversy, facing withering criticism for flying Americans on Russia's space station, Mir, which careened from one near-disaster to another. First there was a fire onboard, and that was followed by a collision, and that was followed by computer failures, power failures, oxygen-generating failures and pretty much every sort of fail-

Those events, which played out like a cosmic tragicomedy, were front-page news for a while, but Mir eventually steadied itself and fell off the journalistic radar screen once its last American passenger returned to Earth earlier this year.

Mir seems like ancient and irrelevant history now, but Bryan Burrough brings it to life in his remarkable book "Dragonfly: NASA and the Crisis Aboard Mir." . He reveals a space agency so riddled

tained through the Freedom of Infor-

the dysfunction of our space agency.

can determine who flies and who does of the war in Bosnia-Herzegov, Burrough interviewed key officials, not Burrough likeos Abbey to, among this for The Washington Post.

astronauts and cosmonants in the Mir saga, and he has come up with some Although fear of powerful bureaucrais reportorial gems. We learn, for instance, exists in every federal agency, the conreportorial gems. We learn, for instance, that shortly after the collision that nearly destroyed Mir, the NASA astronaut on bourd, Michael Foale, tried to bolster the are afraid to voice concerns about safety

"That film is the best of the best, fremble. Glenn's voyage may have Vasili Tsibliyev, Mir's beleaguered

> years in orbit, the psychological erosion
> of commander Tsibliyev; the almost unienger; the heroism of his successor. Foale: the mistrust between NASA and the Russians; the borrendous planning at mission control that made a collision all

Yet Burrough ties the story together with illuminating details gleaned in part, from previously unpublished recordings of conversations between Mir and mission control. We read, for example, that a few minutes after the collision on June 25, 1997. Tsibliyev told ground control, "Oh, hell. We don't Mir to Washington, and the revolving know where the air leak is." Asked to cast of characters is so large that readers seal off the module from which air is leaking, he said, "We can't close any-

"Dragoufly" is not just a postmortem, it is a prescription for the future. On Saturday NASA and the Russian Space Agency launched the first module of the International Space Station, a successor to Mir. The book's greatest value lies in the way it exposes rivalries in Houston and Moscow that but Burrough, a special correspondent make space flight a miracle not because of the technical challenges that must be overcome, but because of the bureaucratic ineptitudes that hamstring many

His book probably will become re- afraid of saying or doing anything that quired reading, and entertaining reading, for anyone who wants to understand rector of the Johnson Space Center who

others, Raspntin and J. Edgar Hoover. sequences are alarming at NASA because astronauts, Burrough contends, problems or ill-designed missions.

Burrough also shows that scientific . research, trumpeted by NASA as a key justification for space flight, is window dressing. Just as the Apollo program was driven by the need to get to the moon before the Russians, today's program is driven primarily by political motives, in this case propping up the Russian Space Agency and bolstering U.S.-Russian re-

versal dislike of the astronaut Jerry Lin- American on Mir, returned to Earth after more than three months in space, NASA doctors wanted to administer a battery of immediate tests before his body began readjusting to gravity. But they were told to cut short the tests because the administrator of NASA, Dan Goldin, wanted to hold a news conference at which be intended to serve an ice cream sundae to Thagard.

This book has minor problems. It jumps too rapidly from one setting to another, from Houston to Moscow to unfamiliar with the American or Russian space programs may get confused. The extracts of official documents and conversations are useful, but Burrough occasionally seems to paste one extract and quote after another. The quickness with which this book has been brought out, just a year after the headlines it grew from, makes it timely, but the haste shows. It has none of the literary dazzle of Tom Wolfe's "The Right Stuff."

These are small complaints. Burrough has done a splendid job of examining an agency that is entrusted with our dreams of exploring space. If the right people take notice of this book, as they should, our dreams of going to Mars and beyond stand a greater chance of being turned into a reality.

Peter Maass, author of "Love Thy Neighbor: A Story of War," a chronicle of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, wrote

By Alan Truscott

ONE of the game's leading theorists died last month in Somerville, New Jersey. He was Dave Cliff, and he was the first to develop a comprehensive relay system in which one player makes minimum bids to ask questions and the other. describes his hand.

The system included the OR93
"Denial Cue-Bid," a highly AQ8743 significant idea. Although they required much intellectual cffort. Cliff's ideas were adopted by several experts and helped neveral national ones.

This started a trend, and North relaysystems of various kinds Pass are now common among top 3 a players around the world.

Cliff was also the originator of the splinter bid, a dra- West led the heart lack.

show a fit with partner, short- weak two-bids, and rebidding suits. Cliff led the club king, ness in the suit bid, and slam after a Stayman response to and made his slam with an interest. He also enlarged the one no-trump. theory of responding to

NORTH(D) 4 A 83 EAST + 10 7 6 2 - WEST 7 J 18 2 0 0 10 782 SOUTH GAKQ96. OK5 them win one world title and ... North and South were valuerable

On the diagrammed deal from 1976, Cliff held the South hand and pushed ag-West had overcalled in clubs. an "unmakable" slam. After a heart lead, it might seem that South was doomed to lose two chib tricks. But he found a way to create a problem for the defense. After winning the heart lead, he led all his trumps and all his remaining hearts. Before the last heart ... was led, the position was as

shown at right. On the last heart West de- A Q cided that South could have a small singleton club and the doubleton ace-queen of diamonds. To avoid a hypothetical endplay, be discarded the

improbable overtrick.

partner by throwing the club jack as well as the nine. Nevgressively to six spades after embeless it was a fine creative he had opened one spade and effort by Cliff, bringing home NORTH

**♦ J85** EAST WEST ♦ Q 187 ΦĴ SOUTH

# INTERNATIONAL



Sef Meshadan, an Iraqi lawmaker, shonting an anti-American slogan Sunday in Amman, Jordan, at an emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union called to respond to the U.S.-British attack on Iraq. The group demanded an end to the sanctions against Baghdad.

# Iraq Vows to Reject Aid **And to Oust UN Monitors**

BAGHDAD - Iraq increased the pressure in its confrontation with the United Nations on Sunday, saying it would reject an extension of a UNmunitored program that feeds civilians and order aid monitors to leave.

Trade Minister Mnhammed Mehdi Saleh did not say when Baghdad would ask the UN staff to depart. The latest phase of the aid program, under which trag is allowed to sell some oil for food, expires at the end of April.

The tough talk came only a day after Iraq said it would fire on U.S. and British warplanes patrolling a "no-fly" zone imposed after the 1991 Gulf War. Iraqi officials said that anti-aircraft gunners were prepared to open fire on planes patrolling such zones over northem and southern Iraq.

"Violating Iraqi airspace is an ag-gression," Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said.

"The so-called farce of no-fly zones must end," he said. "The so-called no-fly zones only exist in the Brinsh and American imagination,

Iraq has never recognized the zones and has occasionally confronted aircraft flying in the areas. The United States and Britain have

said that they will cootinue to enforce the zones. "Our pilots can act in self-defense if

they feel threatened at any time," said P. J. Crowley, a spokesman for the National Security Council in Washington. Iraq said that its anti-aircraft gunners drove off an attack Saturday by "enenty?' warplanes.

Officials in Washington and London said that pilots patrolling the southern no-fly zone saw anti-aircraft fire in the distance, but were in no danger.

The United States, Britain and France set up the zones in 1991-92 to halt air attacks against Kurdish rebels in the

north and Shiite Muslims in the south. The Iraqi statement came as a group of Arab legislators meeting in Amman. Jordan, condemned the U.S.-British attacks on Iraq this month as "unjust aggression." They also called on their governments to work on the lifting of the UN trade embargo against Iraq. which has crippled the country's econ-

A statement at the end of a one-day

meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union described the attacks as "unjust

U.S.-British aggression" on Iraq. It was the first time since the 1991 Gulf War that a pan-Arah body has given its full support to Iraq. It was unclear whether any of the Arah governments would respond to the recommendations.

The oil-for-food deal brings crucial supplies, such as flour, lentils, rice sugar and medicine, to people suffering after eight years of UN sanctions, It might seem unlikely that Iraq would cancel the deal without an easing of the embargo on broader exports of its oil. Iraq. however, has long feared that the humanitarian program is eroding support for an easing of the sanctions on humanitarian grounds.

'Iraq refuses the continuation of this roject and demands the lifting of sanctions," Mr. Saleh said. "This means the ouster of UN teams which supervise

About 400 UN workers monitor the oil-for-food deal to ensure that the Iraqi government does not divert any of the money or aid and use it for its own purposes. The arrangement began in December 1996.

The latest six-month phase allows fraq to sell \$5.2 billion in oil to buy needed supplies. About 3 percent of that money is used to pay the homanitarian aid monitors, the expenses needed to administer the program and to finance the work of weapons inspectors in Iraq. Another 30 percent goes to compensate victims of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf War.

"Iraq is bearing huge expenses which it pays to these UN personnel and they do nothing apart from verifying that the imports have reached Iraqi ports," Mr. Saleh said.

The UN has maintained that the embargo, which was imposed after the invasion of Kuwait, cannot be lifted until the weapons inspectors verify that lraq is free of weapons of mass de-

spuchon. The United States and Britain began four days of punishing air strikes Dec. 16 after the weapons inspectors released a report saying that Baghdad was block-

ing their work. Iraq has said it will not allow the UN arms monitors to resume their work.

# Roar From Queen's Corner

# Canada Loyalists Bristle at Idea of Severing Ties

By Anthony DePalma

TORONTO -- Canada has its queen and, as some politicians are discovering, God save those who would try to sever

the country from its monarch. Senior advisers to Prime Minister Jean Chretien, along with some uniden-tified leaders of the governing Liberal Party, are still smarting from the sharp response they received to a recent informal proposal to mark Canada's entrance into the new millennium by finally cutting all the country's ties to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

After the unidentified leaders passed along the idea to a friendly reporter and the trial balloon was sent up in a promment article, crowds of loyalists came out to shoot it down. 'A bauble on the national Christmas

tree that these people think they can pluck off in 1999," was what John Aimers thought of the Liberal idea. Mr. Airpers had been through this fight before, which was why he helped found the Monarchist League of Canada, based in Toronto, more than 20 years ago.

'This is a naive, fanciful project of some gutless wonders in Ottawa who don't want to anach their names to this," Mr. Aimers said. "They should be more careful of what they let slip." There was a significant amount of

backpedaling in the halls of Parliament after the first reports of the dump-thequeen plan were released. Although the prime minister's office had made it clear that Mr. Chretien was anxious to hear what Canadians thought of the idea, in a year-end interview with the Canadian newsmagazine Maclean's, Mr. Chretien said that abolishing the monarchy was not a priority.

"I have enough problems with the separatists in Quebec," Mr. Chretien said. "I don't want to have problems with the monarchists in Ontario."

Sophie Galarneau, a spokeswoman for Mr. Chretien, said, "While it's certainly true that the prime minister would also holds.

like to know what Canadians think about it, this is not a government project at this point.

Although some officials, such as Industry Minister John Manley, have openly espoused a republican Canada, Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray went on television to play down the idea. The premier of Prince Edward Island then said he would be the first to cast the one veto it would take from the provinces to

block any such amendment.
Columnists at some of Canada's largest newspapers gleefully took shots at the plan.
Dan Gardner, writing in the Ottawa

Citizen — the newspaper that hroke the story — noted that the plan was hilled as a visionary project to mark the year 2000. But, he wondered, 'Can't we just build a giant dome or something?

In The Gazette, a Montreal newspaper, the columnist Tommy Schnurmacher called the idea of throwing out the queen "impertinent.

Canada's relanonship to the queen is a complex one, similar to that of Anstralia, another member of the British Commonwealth seeking to come out from Britain's shadow. For several years, the Australians have engaged in a debate over whether to remove the queen as head of state. Feelings toward the royal family are

warmer in Canada than they are in Australia, said Mr. Aimers of the Monarchist League, at least in English-speaking Canada. While most Quebeckers are cool to the crown, royal visits to the Maple Kingdom, as the monarchists call it, almost always attract big crowds, and members of the royal family often vacation in Canada. While vowing allegiance to the queen

is considered by some Canadians to reveal a lack of independence, Mr. Aimers points out that under the Canadian constitution, Queen Elizabeth is actually Canada's own monarch, quite separate and apart from being Queen of England or Queen of Australia, titles she

# A Top Figure In Likud Bloc Won't Fight Netanyahu

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cleared a major hurdle Sunday in his bid for re-election

when a top contender within the Likud party dropped out of the race.

Another challenge to Mr. Netan-yahu's leadership from within Likud was announced by Uzi Landan, 55, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in the Knesset, or Parliament.

In addition, Benny Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Be-gin and one of the Likud's most staunchly right-wing members, has de-cided to leave Likud and run for prime minister as the head of a new rightist party. Mr. Begin was due to announce

his candidacy Monday.

But neither Mr. Begin nor Mr. Landau is considered likely to unseat Mr.

Netanyahu, and the Netanyahu critic within Likud who was rated as having the best chance, Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem, took himself out of the

race Sunday. Mr. Olmert, who has campaigned for the construction of the Har Homa Jewish neighborhood in traditionally Arab East Jerusalem, had been considered the only Likud member with enough stature to have a fighting chance against Mr.

Netanyahu. He reportedly decided to bow out after failing to enlist the support of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who is popular among the Sephardim, or

Jews from Middle Eastern countries. Mr. Mordechai, a moderate who has urged Mr. Netanyahu to accelerate the peace process with the Palestinians, has said that he will not leave Likud and that he is standing by Mr. Netanyahu, Israeli

Although he said be would not interfere in Israeli polinics, the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, asserted Sunday that Mr. Netanyahu's government had stopped carrying out the Wye land-for-security accord reached in the United States two months ago.

"The Israeli side has frozen com-

pletely everything," Mr. Arafat said.
The lack of a serious challenger has strengthened Mr. Netanyahu's chances to again be named the party's candi-

The Likud Central Committee was to meet later Sunday. The panel is to prepare for the selection of a party leader and begin the process of choosing a list

of candidates for the Knesset. The Likud candidate for prime minister is expected to face the Labor Party leader, Ehud Barak, in elections. The date of the balloting is likely to be set soon by Parliament. But there are also several candidates forming centrist parties, and that could complicate the

The recently retired army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, is expected to be the candidate of a centrist party. Both he and Mr. Barak were proteges of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin, and according to Eitan Haber, a former Rabin aide, if the two both run, Mr. Netanyahu

will win. "If the shoe drops and the heavens deem it so that Barak and Shahak run separately, with the support of fallen angels and an overload of ego," Mr. Haber wrote in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth, "then even today I can tell you wbo will become the next prime minister of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu. He and no other, and in a word, we would

Mr. Landau represents the right wing within Likud that has been dismayed by Mr. Netanyahu's flip-flops on policy

"Likud has become the party of the moment with a leader who changes course according to the direction of the wind," Mr. Landau said at a news conference in Tel Aviv while announcing his candidacy. "Such victory is not a genuine victory."

The hard-liners were also deeply disappointed by Mr. Netanyahu's signing of the Wye accord, which set the stage for three further withdrawals from the

Standing alongside Mr. Landau on Sunday was former Prime Minister Yirzhak Shamir, Mr. Shamir, who left office in 1992 after losing to Mr. Rabin of the Labor Party, threw bis support to Mr. Landau, saying he was the most suitable candidate to lead the party and the country.

"Benjamin Netanyahu should be re-placed," Mr. Shamir was quoted as saying in an interview with Yedioth Ahronoth. "This isn't the Likud I knew as prime minister."

# **Strasbourg Youths Attack Cars and Buses**

The Associated Press STRASBOURG — Youths in the eastern French city of Strasbourg burned cars and stoned public transit vehicles

overnight, officials said Sunday. The end-of-year violence, a repeat of similar incidents in previous years, broke out after a pop music concert Saturday. Young vandals torched about 20 cars and hurled rocks and other projectiles against a bus and a tram in the working class suburbs of Hautepierre and Meinau. There were no injuries or arrests, officials said.

The incidents came during a holiday youth program that included hip-hop, techno and Algerian rai concerts. Last year 500 cars were burned in

Strasbourg, 100 more than in 1996.

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ure that might afflict a space station. ...

with infighting that, for instance, two astronauts training for the same flight on Mir stopped speaking to each other. Tales of intrigue at NASA are not new, for Vanity Fair and co-author of the best-felling "Barbarians at the Gate," has come up with much that was unknown. based partly on NASA documents ob-

mation Act . . .

The outlines of the drama on Mir are

but inevitable.

thing. Here everything is so screwed up that we can't close anything."

Most appalling, Burrough examines the culture of fear among astronants

BRIDGE

maric leap in an unbid suit to strong two-club bids and club ace, with disastrous re-

East should have helped his

By Natalie Angier New York Tunes Service

staple of childhood for decades, has won iconic status in the culture and possesses a waist so small and hemispheric projections so pronounced that no real adult could approach them without the help of potentially dangerous body enhancement therapies?

Barbie? Well, yes. But Barbie has a male companion in the land of the outlandish physique, and it isn't Ken. In-stead, we must look to a recent model of that old trooper, G.I. Joe, to see a match for Barbie's cartoon anatomy, and to find a doll that may be as insidious a role model for boys as Ms. Triple-D top. Size-2 bottom is for girls.

Some researchers worry that Joe and other action-hero figures may, in minor fashion, help fan the use of musclebuilding drugs among young affiletes, even as doctors and sports officials struggle to emphasize that such drugs are not only risky, illegal and unsporting, but in many cases worthless in enhan-

Harrison Pope Jr., a psychiatrist at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, has studied how the morphology of G.I. Joe has evolved since the doll was introduced in 1964. Just as Barbie has become gradually thinner and bustier, Dr. Pope said, so each new vintage of G.I. Joe has been more musenlar and sharply defined, or "cut," than the model before.

The most extraordinary G.L. Joe on the market, "G.I. Joe Extreme," wears a red bandanna and an expression of rage. His hiceps bulge so much that they are larger around than his waist, and, if ratcheted up to haman size, they would be larger than even the arms of the grotesquely muscular Olympians of today, Dr. Pope said. Hasbro Industries, maker of the G.I.

By Nicholas Wade

ising results at the same time that new

research has cast doubt on its original

The agent of treatment is a genetically

altered adenovirus, one of the viruses

that cause the common cold. Called

maceuticals of Richmond, California,

the virus is injected directly into tumors.

becomes cancerous. The virus is designed for specific attacks on the many

types of tumor cells that have knocked out a critical gene called p53.

Onyx-015 is being tested in patients

reported last month that in 16 out of 26

patients with head and neck cancer, or

62 percent, the turnors had shrunk by

more than half, and that in six of those

patients the tumors had entirely dis-

In all cases, the patients received a

standard chemotherapeutie drug as

well as the virus, because earlier tests

hination were more effective than

the patients were at an advanced stage, all of them having failed to benefit

from conventional treatments. But be-

cause the test is a Phase 2 trial. de-

signed to explore the most effective

22 Subsidy 23 Challenge

' 27 k follows sunset

in poetry

35 A shephero

36 ERIC

39 Honest-

22 "Phooey!"

The results are impressive because

tumor cells but not healthy cells.

viously believed.

EW YORK — A covel form

neared the end of its pre-

liminary trials with prom-

cancer treatment has

ationale, is one of those testing the virus. Of the The doubts, not yet resolved, may eight patients with head and neck can-

mean that the treatment is less harmless cer he ha treated so far, "three have had to normal cells than previously had really superb results," he said.

been thought. But it is also possible that the treatment may be applicable to a away," he said. "In another, there's

much wider range of cancers than pre- just an area of thickness but the initial

Onyx-015 by its developer, Onyx Pharthey have done as well as they have."

Enormous doses can be used without Onyx-015 virus in the laboratory say

apparent harm to the patient because the they find it behaves rather differently

insights into the basic genetics of tumor both on its safety and on the range of

cells, and in particular the protective tumor types it may be able to kill.

Normal cells have an intricate cir-

with several types of cancer, but the trials with head and neck cancers are might lead to cancer, such as after

furthest along. Onyx Pharmaceuticals invasion by a virus or damage to the

had shown that the two agents in compercent the p53 gene is also mutated.

virus is designed to kill certain types of than Onyx had proposed on the basis of

The treatment is based on recent of exactly how the virus works bears normal cells.

chromosomes.

Joe doll has changed much over the years. EW YORK - Which classic The company adds that it has stopped American doll has been a manufacturing the "Extreme" model, although a recent expedition showed that the doll was still available in toy stores.

G.I. Joe is the only action figure that has been around long enough for Dr. Pope to be able to make comparisons between old and new models. But he said that a survey of other popular action figures - Power Rangers, Batman and Cyberforce Stryker - showed the same excessive muscularity.

Dr. Pope said the dolls might be plant-

ing in boys' minds a template for a he-man's body that cannot be attained without engaging in obsessive behaviors to build muscle and strip off fat, and then augmenting those efforts with drugs like human growth hormone and anabolic steroids, synthetic versions of the male hormone, testosterone. His study of the evolution of action dolls will be published early next year in The Interna-tional Journal of Eating Disorders.

"Prior to 1960, and the introduction of anabolic steroids, even the most dedicated bodybuilders couldn't get larger than a certain maximum size." Dr. Pope said, "Steroids made it possible for meo to look as big as supermen, and now we see that standard reflected in our toys for the very young."

Given the nhiquitous images of mus-

cularity, as well as the mounting de-mands on young athletes to sprint faster, yault higher, lift heavier and otherwise impress cadres of easily disgruntled sports fans, experts say it is not surprising that the use of muscle-enhancing drugs has reached pandemic proportions,

even among barely pubescent boys.

About 18 percent of high-school athletes in the United States are thought to use anabolic steroids, about twice the figure of 10 years ago, according to some estimates. Although performance-

A Promising Cancer Treatment

with Food and Drug Administration approval, to move to a Phase 3 trial,

with enough patients to arrive at a

Dr. James Arseneau, a doctor at the Albany Medical Center in New York.

mass has gone. The others had more

minorresponses. But given the situation

these people are in, with far advanced

disease, I think it is really remarkable

eral researchers experimenting with the

cuitry of interacting genes and proteins that control their proliferation. The cir-cuitry is designed to make sure the cells divide when the body requires them to,

but to halt or even kill the cell if it

Division is tightly controlled by a

system centered on a protein known as Rb. The cell-arrest and cell-suicide pro-

grams are under the direction of another

protein, p53. For a cell to become tu-

morous, it must subvert the division-

control circuitry. Many tumor cells have

sabotaged the Rh gene and in about 60

Biologists have recently come to

recognize that viruses, like incipient

tumor cells, must defeat the division-

control circuitry and that in the course

of evolution, several viruses have tar-

geted the products of the very same

genes that are mutated in tumor cells.

Adenovirus has at least three genes

Meanwhile, on another track, sev-

statistically significant outcome.

dose with only a small oumber of pa-tients, the results cannot be regarded as substance that disrupts the Rb protein, conclusive. The company now hopes, while E1B-55K blocks the divisioo-

its own laboratory tests. The question ficient tumor cells but was harmless to

Joe dolls, disagrees with Dr. Pope's con-tention that the body type of the standard by athletic organizations, it is considered langhably easy to cheat and escape detection in drug screens. In addition, health food stores now offer a variety of "ontritional supplements" reputed to have anabolic properties.

The supplements include creatine, DHEA, beta agonists and androstenedione, a precursor of testosterone made famous by the baseball slugger Mark McGwire. Such supplements are not strictly regulated, like drugs, their side effects are uncharted and their effectiveness is unproved.

Doctors have long emphasized the dangers of muscle-building drugs. The use of anabolic steroids lowers the levels of protective high-density lipoproteins, suppresses sperm production and raises the risk of heart attacks, strokes and liver disease. The chronic use of human growth hormone in ultra-high doses has its own hazards, among them an increased risk of arthritic-type disorders, diabetes and some cancers.

ANY researchers say the paradoxical element in the seemingly unstoppable epidemic of using such drugs, is that most of them do not work nearly as well as hilled. Human growth hor-mone may increase muscle mass, but bigger does not necessarily mean stronger, said Shalender Bhasin, chief of the division of endocrinology metabolism and molecular medicine at Charles Drew University in Los Angeles.

The extra muscle hulk that comes from steroid use may drag an athlete down without compensating for the ad-ded weight through better performance. For any event that requires moving against friction or gravity, Dr. Bhasin said, including sprinting, pole-vaulting or swimming, and for endurance ac-tivities like marathon running, taking testosterone may be counterproductive.

arrest function of p53, and E1B-19K

jams p53's cell-suicide program. In 1992, Onyx's chief scientific of-

ficer at the time, Frank McCormick,

realized that the frequent mutation of

the p53 gene in tumor cells created a

critical difference between them and

the healthy cells that could be exploited

gene that thwarts the division-arrest mechanism of p53 would be unable to replicate in normal cells, because their

p53 system would block the division

process. Bot the defective virus could replicate in tumor cells that had dis-

abled their own p53, and go on to attack

Onyx-015 is an adenovirus that

lacks the E1B-55K anti-division-arrest

gene. In preclinical studies, the com-

pany reported that the defective virus killed laboratory cultures of p53-de-

of Onyx's original preclinical studies," said Steven Linke, a molecular biol-

ogist at the National Cancer Institute.

said. "But in the new studies, the Onyx

virus in some cases is unable to kill

tumor cells that lack p53 function. The

cooclusioo would have to be that the

killing mechanism is independent of

p53, although if the clinical trials are

successful, it may not matter too much

rector of the cancer center at the Uni-

versity of California at San Francisco,

agrees that it is now elear that Onyx-

015 can replicate in cancer cells with an intact p53 gene, "which is not con-sistent with the original hypothesis at

all." But he believes a new discovery

about the geneties of tumor cells goes

far toward explaining the apparently

Mr. McCormick, who is now di-

how the virus works."

contradictory results.

'McCormick has an excellent idea and I hope it will work," Mr. Linke

UT in the last few months

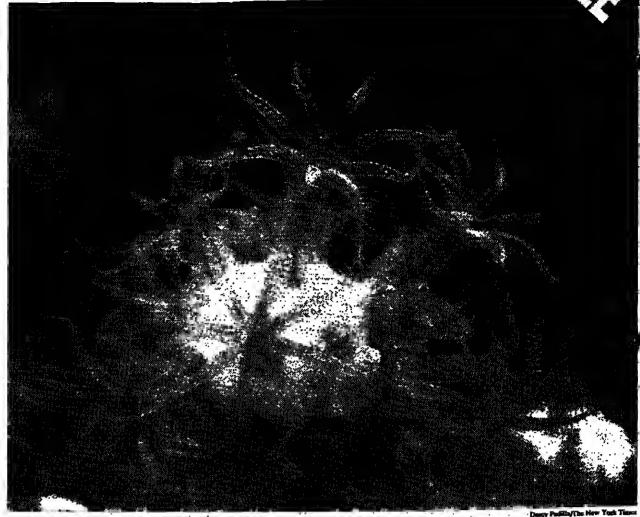
other researchers have come

up with contradictory results that "question the reliability

other tumor cells.

An adenovirus lacking the E1B-55K

by a defective form of adenovirus.



Mushroom coral extends feathery polyps to feed, trapping small animals and particles from deep-sea currents.

# Out of the Murky Depths

An Aquarium Harvests the Sea's Rarest Beasts

By Calvin Sims

ONTEREY, California -Miles beneath the turbulent waters of Monterey Bay, rewith a giant robot submersible, advanced sensory equipment and stomachs almost of steel, are collecting some of the rarest sea creatures known to man.

If the biologists of the Monterey Bay Aquarium manage to keep these hizarre animals alive after hringing them back from the abyss, as they say they can, they plan a public exhibit of more than 40 species early next year - the largest display ever of living deep-sea life.

Many of these unusual creatures have oever been seen in an aquarium. Indeed, just a decade ago they had hardly been seen by anyone, because they inhabit the walls and floors of dark. underwater canyons more than 3,000 feet (900 meters) deep. While remotely operated robots have been used to retrieve deep-sea animals for several

outside their natural habitat. But after more than a de cade of research and advances in husbandry and life-support systems, the hiologists of the Monterey Bay Aquarium say they are confident that they can maintain a variety of deep-sea life long enough for public exhibit. Among the strange creatures they plan to display in the aquarium's new deep sea exhibit, scheduled to open

in March, are mushroom corals, pred-atory tunicates, sea whips, spider crabs, filetail cat sharks, rattish, feather stars at 4:30 A.M. for a location off the bay and eelpouts. Many biologists have never seen many of these species alive.

"Most people have seen television shows and discovery shows about sea not place the submersible robot in the life but those programs deal mainly with what's in the first 150 feet of ocean," said Gil van Dykhuizen, a research bi-ologist at the aquarium. "We have captured creatures from thousands of feet deep -- creatures so unusual looking that they appear alien, and we have learned to keep them alive. Most people will never see anything like this in their lifetime.'

Beneath the picturesque bay is an un-derwater canyon more than two miles (3.2 kilometers) deep with steep rocky precipices. The deep-sea exhibit, which will contain 7,000 square feet (650 square meters) of displays, will focus on three of the habitats found in the Monterey Bay's canyon: the midwater, vertical canyon wall and sea-floor habitats. The aquarium has spent more than \$5 million over a decade to assemble the exhibit.

But gathering and sustaining these delicate species is no easy task and continues to pose considerable technological and logistical challenges. The suecess of the exhibit will depend on many factors beyond the biologists' control. There is plenty of room for things to go wrong, and they often do.

the bay are unpredictable and sometimes violent, making it difficult for the scientists to go collecting. The highly so-phisticated machinery used to gather the creatures sometimes malfanctions, causing delays. And sometimes by accident, the biologists fatally wound the animals while removing them from hard-to-reach places in the canyon. Moreover, many deep-sea creatures perish outside the extreme conditions of the deep, where there is tremendous water pressure, icy tem-collected for the exhibit, peratures, limited food, low oxygen and The beautiful musino

They are all here, mushroom

sea whips, spider crabs, filetail

where the corals and tunicates are known

to thrive. But the winds were so high and

the water so choppy that the crew dared

shore, where the crew lowered the giant

remote-controlled submersible into rel-

collecting devices.

On color television screens in the con-

constant rain of dead planktoo and an-

imal wastes, known as "marine snow,"

is visible on the screens. But after diving for 30 minutes, the submersible reached

the ocean floor, a vast expanse of muddy

ridges and cliffs, garnished with colorful

control room, the robot is operated by four researchers, sitting at workstations.

The search was under way. In the

imals and plants.

corals, predatory tunicates,

cat sharks, ratfish, feather

water for fear of losing it.

stars and eelpouts.

tunicates - a star of the planned exhibit. can kill them. Maneuvering the robot years now, few species brought back. Extremely rough seas forced them to arms can be especially tricky because the

The currents and weather conditions of oversees a video program that records the e bay are unpredictable and sometimes excursion, noting the depth and location where animals are encountered. The submersible covers an area about the size of a football field, meticulously searching for the predatory tunicates.

'Oh where, oh where has my tunican gone?" the crew sang in unison. After nearly an hour of searching, there were no tunicates in sight. But there were several mushroom soft coral, deep-sea cilcumbers and sea stars, which were

The beautiful mustiroom corals are no sunlight. Changes in pressure, oxygen expected to be big hits of the exhibit content and water temperature causes the Related to anemones and jellytish. content and water temperature causes the Related to anemones and jellyfish, immediate demise of some species. It must now corals dwell at the ocean. "What we are attempting has never bottom where they extend feathery been done before, so I guess you can say." polyps to feed, trapping small animals we are in uncharted waters," said Edward Saidels, from currents. When the ward Seidel, a research biologist. "But polyps are retracted, the polyp looks like we've learned so moch in recent, years that we believe we can pull it off. "Gathering these tender creatures is diffracted last month when aquarum bisteep canyon walls that are hard to reach ologists went searching for predatory tunicates—a star of the planned exhibit.

ST. T & A . . .

AIR AUPERTE

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from the ocean floor survived for long abandon the expedition after three stompilot has only a two-dimensional view but is operating in a three

After nearly two hours of combing the ocean bottom the researchers hit pay dire Perched on a canyon wall and resembling a rubbery blob was a predatory tunicated. They are of particular interest because they capture prey by closing their oral hood, trap-

ping tiny animals inside likes venus fity trap.

To gather them, the pilot uses the robot's elamshell arm, breaking the substrate, with the animal attached, off the canyon wall. Tunicates that are torn from their substrate, or that have their outer layer torn or scraped, have little chance for survival.

The funicates and other deep-sea animais are stored in an insulated drawer in The following day, the biologists the underside of the robot to protect them headed for an unexplored area closer to from being contaminated by surface water, which may be up to 10 degrees atively calm waters. The robot is equipped with sonars, video cameras, flood lights, sensors, sampling tools and Centigrade warmer than the deep'sea.

Y THE END of the day, the biologists had collected four predatory tunicates, five mushtrol room aboard ship, the scientists monitored the descent of the robot to the bottom of the canyon. At first, only a one basket star. But collecting these animals was only half the battle. The creatures must be sustained in a hostile

environment above water. nvironment above water.
In the past, the biologists could keep the predatory tunicates alive in tanks for no more than six to eight months. But after providing the tunicates with a low-oxygen environment similar to that in which fley normally live, the biologists can now keep them alive for more than two years.

with television screens. A pilot navigates
the submersible, while a second manenvers the robot's arms to collect speciuncan anve for more man two years.

The biologists said that they have collected about 70 percent of the animals needed for the exhibit and that they plan. mens. One biologist operates the cameras to make at least five more trips to the and identifies specimens, and another deep sea before the opening in March.

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ss Health resort **SS Mouse 52 Chlanti, e.g.** 



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# Caution Urged in Do-It-Yourself Teeth Whiteners high concentrations of hydro-gen peroxide — 30 percent to agency's approval. The man-35 percent — have been ufacturers there. Clifford Whall Jr., director

By Holcomb B. Noble New York Times Service

TEW YORK -- A variety of new products have become available for whitening teeth, many of them sold over the counter in pharmacies or by mail order for use in the home. But a controversy swirls around their safety and effectiveness, particularly the over-thecounter home products.

the products are safe and ef-

Manufacturers insist that

they required meticulous preparation, and this, coupled with their unpredictability, limited their popularity.

By the early 1990s oew products were introduced that were easier to apply, and the process began to be used

more often. In 1991, the Food and

Whitening solutions with affecting bodily structures or normal teeth cleaning

ufacturers then argued that the products were cosmetics, available in dentists' offices and the drug agency allowed for years for teeth stained by food, coffee, tea, tobacco or them on the market pending other substances. Initially, another review. Questions are still being raised, including recent reports of increas-ing levels of peroxide being added to home products, and the matter remains under investigation.

The generally accepted method of whitening is done in the dentist's office with prepared bleach-and-gel

ation, said the in office bleaches have a long recordof safety, though it is too soon; for long-term conclusions onlaser or at-home procedures. Mr. Whall and others say that, as with many medical procedures that are benefits cial if correctly followed and harmful if not, teeth winter ing can kill gurn tissne of the damage the teeth if done ing properly. And animal sandies Drug Administration classified the whiteners as drugs, three times a year after a

can cause cell damage and may enhance careinoge

of product evaluation at the

American Dental Associ-

# INTERNATIONAL

# Defective Condoms Worsen Africa's AIDS

# Some Asian Manufacturers Are Found to Have Shipped Substandard Products

By Donald G. McNeil Jr. New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG - Out of the depths of the AIDS epidemic sweeping Africa, an ugly truth is emerging: Some condom makers have been dumping their substandard wares here and Africans have

ocen risking their lives on brittle, leaky or ill-fitting condoms. The problem has been particudarly bad here in South Africa, where, until last August, government officials were using a procurement system that almost invited manufacturers to ship their castoffs here.

There is no question that a carcity of condoms and the refusal of many men to use them are to blame for far more of Africa's 23 million HIV infections than faulty condoms are. And experts say that most condoms are perfectly good and that the influx of bad ones may finally have been stemmed. But the

United Nations called for a 48-hour

cease-fire between the Angolan

government and UNITA rebels Sun-

day to allow an investigation team to reach the site of a UN aircraft that

crashed with 14 people on board this

an area 500 kilometers (310 miles)

The C-130 aircraft went down in

southeast of the capital, Lnanda,

where government forces have been

fighting rebels of the National Un-

month. It was not known if there

weekend.

spectors to catch them have contributed to the disease's spread. As a result, couples who do practice safe sex have been left help-

Elizabeth Chidonza, an AIDSeducation worker in Cape Town. said she has twice had condoms break during sex, Her boyfriend is not infected with the AIDS virus, but she is. She is both afraid of infecting him and afraid he would beat her if she did.

In the West, condoms are not necessarily thought of as life-saving medical devices. Here, however, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus; which causes AIDS, is rampant, and virtually everyone infected will die of it because almost no one in Africa can afford thousands of dollars for AIDS "cocktails" that enable people to live with the disease. Condoms also prevent the spread of

UN Seeks Angola Truce After Plane Crash

Annan, appealed to the Angolan

members of the UN Observer Mis-

Luanda a UN spokesman, Hama-

down Toure, said there had been no

The passengers on the plane in-

Cameroonian, a Zambian and a

Eight of the passengers were members of the UN Observer Mis-

reply from either side.

Namibian.

infections, which can produce sores that speed HIV transmission.

Hundreds of millions of condoms are banded out free on this continent each year, paid for - and tested - by international aid agen-

Even now, though, more than 4 million Kenzo brand condoms from Polo Latex Co. of Calcutta are on their way back to India. They were not tested before distribution, and complaints from Cape Town prostitutes flooded in to SWEAT, the Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task Force, a community

aid agency, which had handed thou-

sands out free. When they were checked, the results were shocking: As many as 48 out of 200 in some test batches

"Some of them had sand inside the foil packets," said Andrew Crichton, a national Health Department consultant. "How do you

by the United Nations, was headed

for Saurimo, in the province of Lunda Sul, about 625 kilometers

Mr. Toure said there was no im-

mediate information on the cause of the crash Saturday. He cited gov-ernment sources in Hnambo as say-

Huambo, and that it had crashed 40

pended food delivery flights throughout Angola until Wednes-

day, pending more information oo

The World Food Program sus-

kilometers away, in Vila Nova.

deviousness or sloppiness of some venereal diseases and uninary tract even do that? You practically have manufacturers and the failure of into have a guy inside the factory throwing dirt into the machine. The carrons had water marks and were disintegrating. They looked like they'd been around the world

> Thirn Moopen, assistant director of Inbeco, a Pretoria company that imported the condons, said her "fingers were burnt" in the deal. Polo Latex "elaimed its factory was sabotaged." she said, but it agreed to replace the goods.

A consignment of Twin Lotus condoms from China is also being recalled, and there have been problems with other brands.

There has been no worldwide study of faulty condoms, said Bunmi Makinwa, a distribution ex-pert for UNAIDS in Geneva, but anecdotal reports crop up. There have been occasional problems in Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Rwanda, Zambia and Malawi. In 1993, in Zimbabwe, 24 million condoms made in Malaysia by Dongkuk Techo Rubber and paid for by the British government failed tests. Fortunately, the results came in before any were distributed, but fearing they would be stolen and end up on the black market, Zimbabwe burned them.

In a country where 25 percent of adults are now infected, it took 18 months and \$157,000 to replace them, even though Durex, a Londonbased company making a high-quality, slightly more expensive brand, sent "emergency shipments."

Dongkuk later said its goods were rejected only because the standards were raised after they were made. A British Embassy AIDS educator denied that, calling it "an excuse," but acknowledged that Dongkuk now sells condoms elsewhere without problems.

The incident was so embarrassing



- British aid officials were "nearly coart-martialed" by Parliament, one expert joked - that the British aid agencies adopted far stricter testing rules, which are now used in the many English-speaking countries for which they buy condoms.

Condoms are made all over the world, but most factories are in India, Malaysia, Thailand and China, where latex rubber and cheap labor are available.

Dennis Blairman, a British condom-quality consultant, has toured dozens of factories. "The industry is a jungle, "he said. "Some makers have very science-based companies with excellent laboratories, and others are awful, staggering along with broken-down machinery.

"Latex goes in one end, something comes out at the other, and the buyer doesn't know the differ-

As a result, he said, "I don't think there's a plot to dump sub-standard goods on Africa, but I'm sure there are individuals planning to dump their bad merchandise any-

where they can get away with it."
Paradoxically, South Africa became a dumping ground because it was rich enough to buy its own condoms. Its procurement officers used an ineffective test regimen: Inspectors would visit a factory once a year, test samples chosen by the factory and give it the South African Bureau of Standards seal.

### BRIEFLY

### Rebels Threaten Freetown

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone - Rejecting a call for peace talks and threatening to rain artillery shells down on the capital of Sierra Leone, a rebel commander said Sunday that his troops would soon begin a major attack on

"When we start shelling the city, we won't stop," said the rebel commander, Sam Bockarie. "It's too late for

talking and listening." Mr. Bockarie's Revolutionary United Front has staged a series of assaults in recent days, reportedly moving the

rebel force within striking distance of Freetown. Fearing attack, angry residents of the capital surged through the streets over the weekend and burned alive at

least two men accused of being rebel spies.

Mr. Bockarie claimed his forces had killed at least 100 Nigerian troops — members of a West African coalition force in Sierra Leone that ousted a military junta from power in February.

### Saudi Denies Plot on Bin Laden

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia on Sunday denied involvement in a failed plot to kill the exiled dissident Osama bin Laden, accused by the United States of masterminding attacks against two of its embassies in Africa in August.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted a Saudi source as saying that remarks attributed by a Pakistani daily to Mr. bin Laden about the involvement of Saudi Arabia in the assassination attempt were "lies."

On Saturday, Mr. bin Laden said in an interview that the Taleban militia had foiled the assassination attempt and arrested three men. The men were being held in prison in the Afghan city of Kandahar, he said. (Reuters)

# Prison Siege Ends in Mexico

MEXICO CITY — Two Mexican prisoners released the remaining 14 hostages they had held for more than 20 hours and surrendered, officials said.

The siege at the Reclusorio Sur prison ended peacefully just after noon Saturday, said Jaime Alvarez Ramos, the city's director of prisons. According to officials, four inmates hoping to escape started a riot Friday while the prison was filled with Christmas visitors. When the escape

was foiled, they took 19 hostages in the infirmary. Four hostages were released Saturday morning and a fifth escaped, according to the prison system.

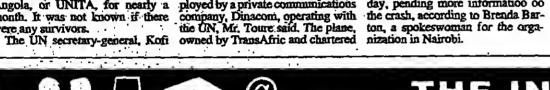
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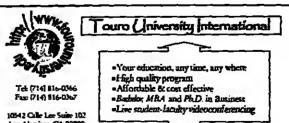
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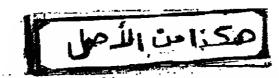
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TO SECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF

GRRENCY I

四日 上海に 一日本の大

**BUSINESS/FINANCE** 

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1998

# Tokyo Admits Being Too Lax In Responding To Recession

TOKYO The government ac-sacwledged Sunday that it had acted too sonchalantly in attempting to pull the economy put of a recession stemming from the burst of the "bubble economy" vestment boom in the late 1980s. It failed to fully anticipate the adverse

effects of slow disposal of bad loans home by financial institutions, the Eco-nomic Planning Agency said in a yearend report :: The government has instead "tried to refloat the economy under the lead of

measures to stimulate demand, a prescription valid for a usual business slump," said the annual review of the Japanese economy. Several economic stimulus packages

failed to produce results while expanding budget deficits and harming consumer sentiment, the report said: In November, the government an-

nounced its biggest-ever stimulus package, pledging to spend more than 23 million yen (\$198 billion) and promising that the world's second-largest economy would soon grow again.

The plan brings to more than 100 allion yen the amount Tokyo will have spent trying to revive growth since the early 1990s.

The burst of the bubble economy with sharp depreciation of asset values would have delivered a considerable blow to the Japanese economy," the report said, "even if the banking sector began disposing of their bad loans much more swiftly."

But reluctance on the part of the public and private sectors to admit failure has left the economy unable to pull out

of recession, the report said, Delays in taking decisive countermeasures can be attributed to an optimism that asset inflation, a natural panacea for past economic problems, would eventually work, the report said. Banks have also been slow in dis-

posing of their bad loans, it added. The report said the burst of the bubble had led to a combined capital loss of 840 ttillion yen to Japanese businesses and households between 1990 and 1996.

The sum is about 1.7 times Japan's gross domestic product in 1996.



The All Star Cafe in Times Square in New York has been offered for sale by its parent, Planet Hollywood.

# Theme Restaurants Fall Out of Fashion

By Charles V. Bagli New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Next month, Television City and the Fashion Cafe, two theme restaurants at Rockefeller Center whose owners once dreamed of branches in major cities around the world, will close,

Nearby, work stopped nearly a year ago on David Copperfield's Magic Underground, a theme restaurant that was supposed to combine magic, merchandise and good food. The owners have spent nearly \$30 million, but it may

The Official All Star Cafe in Times Square has quietly been offered for sale, along with the nine other cafes in the chain. And several troubled restaurants in its parent chain, Planet Hollywood, are on the block.

Theme restaurants, which exploded across the urban skyline three or four years ago with promises of untold profits from a slickly packaged blend of eating, shopping and entertainment, are col-

lapsing. Even former Wall Street favorites such as Hard Rock Cafe, Planet Hollywood and Rainforest Cafe have seen sales timble as diners go elsewhere. Industry analysts and restaurant consultants cite various reasons. Though the restaurants' themes rang-

ed from movie or television memories to sports stars, supermodels and tropical rain forests, the food was often dismissed as terrible.

The elaborate decor -- rock-and-roll collectibles, racing cars, jungle habitats — was impressive but distracting, and the novelty soon wore thin, Rapid excansion into smaller cities such as Indianapolis undercut the cachet of flagship restaurants in London and New York. Landlords who once welcomed theme restaurants have turned their backs.

"The life cycle of theme restaurants has been a lot shorter than anyone expected," said Ron Panl, president of Technomic Inc., a restaurant consulting firm based in Chicago, "Even in New York, where there's a huge tourist population, the novelty's gone."

The trend is not confined to New York: The Fashion Cafe in London went into receivership in October, Planet Hollywood closed its movie-theme restaurants in Aspen, Colorado, and in Jakarta and scratched plans to open an All Star Cafe in Chicago; Mr. Copperfield's Magic Underground scrapped plans to open restaurants in Chicago and Las Vegas, though it still hopes to open one in Orlando, Florida, Many others never got beyond the first press release.

Restaurant analysts and real-estate executives say the concept is not nec-essarily dead. They expect Hard Rock, the largest and oldest theme chain, lo survive and even prosper, because it has done the best job of focusing on food and decor, Planet Hollywood is working on a plan to reorganize as a leaner company, iettison All Star Cafe and pull out of its tailspin. And newcomers such as ESPN Zone and Wrestlemania Cafe, with their tie-ins to television, may catch on.
But the carnage has been enormous in

See THEME, Page 13

# Germany Makes Plea For EU Tax Harmony

Lafontaine Links Issue to Budget Contributions

By Barry James

PARIS - Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine of Germany appealed to fellow members of the European Union on Sunday to rid the EU of what he called unfair tax loopholes and emphasized that creating a system of "fair taxes" would be a priority when Germany took over the rotating presidency of the Un-ion at the start of the new year.

Linking the tax question to Germany's position as the biggest net creditor in the EU, Mr. Lafontaine told the newspaper Welt am Sonniag: 'One thing is clear. There is no way that Europe can expect Germany to pay the highest net contribution while at the same time it does nothing against unfair tax competition."

The minister's words were directed primarily against Luxembourg, whose secretive banking system is a haven for German investors. The European Commission, the EU's executive body, proposed more than a year ago that either bank deposits held by nonresidents in any EU country should be taxed at a uniform rate or interest from the investments should be reported to the home governments of the investors.

Britain also has opposed the propos-al, which has been actively championed hy the Austrian government during its current six-month term in the EU presidency. The British fear that taxing or reporting such investments would drive business away from the Eurobond market in London.

Officials say the need for such harmonizing measures has become a pressing issue with the advent of the European single currency, the euro, which will be introduced for noncash transactions Friday,

The officials said the euro would have the effect of bringing the economic indicators of the 11 nations adopting the currency closer together and that this convergence would inevitably bring with it cooperation on fiscal matters,

Last week, the commission issued a proposal for the harmonization of the standard rate of value-added tax at levels between 15 percent and 25 percent to prevent distortions in the European single market as more and more shoppers bought goods in countries oth- 8 billion euros.

er than their own. But a commission spokesman denied that there was any intention of touching special tax breaks obtained by individual nations, such as the exemption from value-added tax in Britain for items such as children's clothes, books and newspapers.

Nonetheless, mass-circulation newspapers in Britain that oppose the single currency have also come out against what they term plans to impose uniform taxes across the EU and have singled out Mr. Lafontaine as a particular villain. The tabloid newspaper The Sun described him — in German — as most dangerous man in Europe."

In fact, although Britain does not like the idea of a uniform tax on savings, it has cooperated fully in harmonizing the value-added tax, and a senior British Treasury official, Dawn Primarolo, is the head of a committee looking into the identification and elimination of discriminatory tax loopholes.

Mr. Lafontaine made it clear that he was not linking the tax issue to the question of German payments into the EU budget in anything more than a moral sense. "We are not demanding any conditions," he said. "We are hop-ing for fair cooperation."

Germany has been given the task of completing a complex series of negotiations called Agenda 2000 at a special summit conference in Brussels in March. The agenda has the threefold task of creating the conditions for membership of countries in Eastern and Cenredistributing the cost of agricultural and structural support in the EU, and of drawing up a budget for the EU covering the years 2000-2006.

Germany wants to end the situation inder which it pays more into the EU than it gets back in the form of farm and structural support. This year, the imbalance is expected to total 22 hillion Deutsche marks (\$13.58 billion).

Germany, in cooperation with the Netherlands, another net contributor, has put forward a proposal that would reduce its net payments next year to about 5.7 billion euros (\$6.68 billion) from a projected 10 billion euros. This would entail a reduction in net receipts for Spain to about 5.7 billion euros from

# CYBERSCAPE

# On-Line Homesteading Bridges Distance

By Leslie Walker -Washington Post Service

**TASHINGTON** — Jack Koh-nen's family gathered in its yery own "Kohnen Korner" in cyberspace recently after a broken hip sent him to a nursing home in Colorado. Across the United States, dozens of his children and grandchildren signed onto their private area of the Yahoo! site to schedule

agone, especially at Christmas. Big portal sites on the Web, "People are trying to be such as Yahoo!, are offering there for Grandpa. This was inuch faster than small mail," sumers because they be such as Inc. Webser 120. said Lucy Kohnen, 29, a San

advantage of dynamic new Egroup publishing" software that big Web site operators are

post messages, and share cal-endars and address books. Some even let users create personal photo albums and conduct instant polls. All of these services are free.

Commercial 'homesteading" sites have long offered free home pages and sold ads on them. But lately the drive for profit and domination of the lishing business more competrelay of visits out west. itive and creative — with con-Nobody wanted him to be sumers as the beneficiaries.

they don't, someone else will. Francisco woman who cre-ated her family's forum in re-to be the host of your virtual ponse to an electronic mail world, even though you might riessage from Yahoo! Inc. offering the service.

The Kohnens are among teas
of thousands of families, hobbyists, chibs, civic groups and
small businesses that are taking

perception is changing.
Three companies offering personal pages — GeoCities, Xoom.com Inc. and Theglobe.com Inc. - had successful public stock sales this year. Two others - Tripod.com and Angelfire.com

snapped up by Lycos Inc. None is profitable yet, but Web is making the self-pub- investors don't care. That will come later, they believe. What matters to them is that the 10 fastest-growing sites for much of this year were ones where users create content.

In Angust, eager not to miss out on something big, Excite and Yahoo! began offering group-publishing tools that allow more interactivity than the static pages offered by GeoCities. Koz Inc. launched similar technology in August at Familyshoebox.com. In just four months, with

little promotion, tens of thousands of user-created comminities popped up on Excite, and more than 40,000 on look at the ads they post, and bring in friends. that hig Web site operators are developing as a weapon in the fight for mass andiences.

Taking vanity publishing to a new level on-line, the software lets people create private virtual worlds—in-

teractive forums where manage user-generated pages friends and family can chat, in the orderly manner that adpost messages, and share calvertisers demand. But that enders and address books perception is changing.

Already, the ad inventory in Yahoo!'s "clubs" (each page carries a small ad) is sold out for all of 1999. Advertisers like to target their messages by topic, making special-interest clnb pages a compar-atively easy sell — masic companies, for instance, jump

at the chance to put their ads before people in music clubs. People can choose to make their miniworlds publicly accessible, private (closed to any-one who doesn't have the password) or a mixture of both (they see ads cither way). Most users on Excite and Yahoo! choose to

make their pages public. The tools offered by Excite and Yahoo! seem the easiest to use. Excite's provide more flexibility in design and make publishing of photos a breeze. Yahoo!'s look good, but allow little design variety and artwork and no ability to add photos.

Sites that offer static pages aren't standing still. GeoCities announced this mouth that it would soon offer its 3 million members free syndicated con-tent to insert into their home pages, including news headlines from The Associated Press.

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# **GEC Said to Be Talking** With Thomson-CSF

LONDON - Thomson-CSF, the French defense-electronics company, is discussing a merger with the Marconi division of General Electric Co. of Britain, a move that would preempt talks between GEC and British Aerospace PLC or Lockheed Martin Corp., a British newspaper

The Sunday Times said Thomson had won French government clearance to press ahead with talks to create a Europewide defense electronics group. As part of the talks, the paper said, France could reduce its stake in Thomson to 10 percent from 40 percent. It already has cut its stake from 58 percent this year.

Proposals for a deal among DaimlerChrysler Aerospace, BAe and Aerospatialc of France have faltered

amid disagreements over the role of the French state.

Analysis say that while a full merger of GEC and BAe would create a powerful British company and secure considerable cost savings, such a strategy could hurt plans. for a Europewide defense merger. DaimlerChrysler Aerospace is thought likely to oppose a GEC-BAe alhance, however, because the German company would then see its stake in an eventual alliance with BAe diluted.

Separately, the Sunday Telegraph reported that GEC was in merger talks with Lockheed Martin of the United

# CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

# Raising a Glass to Those Who Taught the Financial Lessons of 1998

By Gretchen Morgenson New York Tunes Service

EW YORK - Simply living through 1998 proved quite a learning experience for many investors. People previously acquainted only with a bull market in stocks finally looked a bear market in the eye. Those who had never paid much attention to the bond market learned in late summer that wheo its mysterious wheels grind to a halt, a full-blown credit crisis can result.

Investors also discovered why Alan Gre. aspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is a lot more important to the markets than President Bill Clinton. And they found out why those large risky investment pools are called hedge funds

 because they often get clipped.

What better time than the end of a momentous market year to reflect on its players, both major and minor, and to

### INVESTING

bask in its priceless moments with the awarding of the first Augustus Melmotte Memorial Prizes?

The awards, for this year's financial flubs and feats, are named for a larger-than-life character in "The Way We Live Now, a covel by Anthony Trollope. The book details the chi-canery of Mr. Melmotte, a financial phinger of mysterious background who buys his way into the upper levels nf London society, entertaining royalty and gaining a seat in Parliament. His fall from grace comes when a railroad company for which he helped raise money is

found to be nooexistent.

• PARTY ANIMAL OF THE YEAR AWARD: Tn Alan Greenspan. Who knew that the man who warned investors about irrational exuberance in the stock market in 1996 would wark so hard 3,000 Dow points later in keep the party going? Mr. Greenspan's three successive interest-rate cuts this autumn and explosive increases in the money supply meant that investors partied

• AMIABLE DUNCE AWARD: To

Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft Corp. Before his taped depositions in the Justice Department's antitrust suit against Microsoft, most people assumed that the world's richest man had to be a genius. After all, amassing \$51 billion in

personal wealth usually takes brains. But in his testimony, Mr. Gates dis-played an impressive ignorance about such business basics as market share, and he could not explain what be had meant when he wrote an electronic mail message to top aides saying, "Winning Internet browser market share is a very. very important goal for us."

And how smart is it to underestimate the determination of the federal goverament in full pursuit? According to a wimess in the trial, Mr. Gates predicted back in 1995 that "this antitrust thing will blow nver.

• KNEADING OUT THE KINKS AWARD: To Walter Forbes, former chairman of Cendant Corp. Forbes was chief of CUC International, a membership services company that merged with the franchiser HFS to create Cendant in 1997. After the merger, auditors found that CUC's numbers had been massaged to create profits that, nn second look, were losses instead.

Cendant has since restated three years of results. In 1997, for example, the company had a \$217 million loss, not the \$55.5 million profit it initially reported. Mr.

milion profit it initially reported. Mr. Forbes left with a \$35 million severance package, saying he had "absolutely no knowledge" of the accounting problems.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING AWARD: To the top executives of Cendant. In October, after Cendant stock had lost two-thirds of its value, falling to a low of \$7.50, executives cut the exercise price on 26.3 million stock options to \$9.81. Previously, the options had prices between \$12.26 and \$20.

The stock has since recovered, giving the executives an enormnus windfall but leaving public shareholders wondering: Where are our repriced shares?

• ROUND WHEEL AWARD: To Albert Dunlap, pushed from his post as chairman of Sunbeam Corp. in June. Mr. Dunlap, known for axing thousands of jnbs in keep his company's stock



Clinton: Upstaged on the economy.

price high, learned that what goes

around sometimes comes around. Under Mr. Dunlap, author of "Mean Business: How I Save Bad Companies and Make Good Companies Great," the company was found to have overstated Sunbeam's earnings in 1997 by 65 percent, largely by seiling barbecue grills to retailers in December and agreeing to defer billing on the goods until the following summer.

While almost nobody felt sorry for Mr. Dunlap, Sunbeam shareholders were to be pitied indeed. The company's stock, which traded as high as \$53 in March, was still skulking around at \$5.5625 six

months after Mr. Dunlap left.

DEPENDS HOW YOU DEFINE

"ONE TIME" AWARD: To the management of Kellogg Inc., the cereal giant in Battle Greek, Michigan. For the fourth time in four years, the company took a "nne-time" restructuring charge against earnings in 1998 for "stream-lining uperations." The charge this year came to \$22 million. The total charged against earnings over the four years of one-time charges: \$764 million, equivalent in one-quarter of Kellogg's net



Greenspan: Revived the bull market.

GEROUS AWARD: To the manage-ment of Starwood Hutels & Resorts. On Nov. 11, 1997, with shares in the Star-wood real estate investment trust trading at \$55.25, the company ran a full-page newspaper ad listing the 12-month projections from 10 Wall Street analysts for Starwood's stock price. Ever optimistic, the analysts reckoned that Starwood shares would trade between \$75 and \$83. Twelve mooths later, the stock was just over \$27, a victim of investor fears over the performance of REITs in a slowing economy.
Oh, well. Who will remember?

• UNDUE DILIGENCE AWARD: To Goldman, Sachs & Co. The investment bank reaped millions in underwriting fees on two Russian bond deals peodled to customers in June and July: Not long after the ink on the \$7.65 billion in bonds was dry, Russia's banking system collapsed, making the bonds wurthless. The firm earned \$56 million

no the July deal alone.

BACK-OF-THE-ENVELOPE RESEARCH AWARD: To Henry Blodget, Internet stock analyst at Oppenheimer & Co. On Dec. 16, Blodget raised his year-end 1999 price target for



Dunlap: Got a taste of his own cure...

Amazon.com Inc. from \$150 a share to \$400. That would give the on-line book-seller a market capitalizating of \$21 billioo — one-third the value of all books sold in the world at retail last year. Mr. Blodget told Bloomberg News

the one be set earlier.

The day Mr. Blodget made his optimism public to the investing masses, Amazon shares jumped 17 percent, to \$289. A week later, the stock was at \$325.

Could a \$500 price target be far behind?

• YEAR'S BEST TRADE

AWARD: To the risk-management
committee of Switzerland's UBS AG,

of a derivatives transaction.

be rescued by a consortium of Wall Street banks and brokerage firms in September, UBS wound up writing off its investment, losing \$700 million in the process. The bank's chairman, Mathis owo game.



Gates: Impressively ignorant.

Cabiallavetta, and three other top ex-

that he had raised his price target be-cause Amazon.com had hlown through

the world's second-largest bank. UBS wanted so desperately to invest in the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund that it made personal loans to the fund's partners and bought an \$800 million stake in Long-Term Capital as part

When the teetering hedge fund had to

• A SOW'S EAR IS A SOW'S EAR AWARD: To executives of Zapata Corp., a fish-oil and meat-casing com-pany in Houston. Hoping to breathe a little life into the company's stock, Zapata management announced plans in July to become "one of the largest in-ternet companies in the world." How? By baying or investing in enough World Wide Web sites that it could compete with established search engines such as

Yahoo! and Excite. Investors snapped up Zapata shares on the news, pushing the formerly co-matose stock from around \$10 to almost \$23. Alas, the Internet plans fizzled, the company returned to fish nil, and the stock fell back to earth - until the company announced last week that its

Internet onslanght was back on track. I PATIENCE IS ITS OWN RE-WARD AWARD: In individual investors. Those who bung tight through the summer's market meltdown while professional money managers panicked - proved that every once in a while, amateurs can beat the pros at their

# Mutual Funds and REITs Offer Opportunities

Christmas has came and gone, and only a handful of days remain in what has been for many a truly unusual—and often painful—year. Hol Reynolds, chief investment officer of Wilshire Asset Management, which manages about \$10 billion in assets from its headquarters in Santa Monico, California, spoke recently with Kenneth N. Gilpin of The New York Times about what sort of a year it was and offered some thoughts

Q: Developments in financial markets in the United States and around the world have generated a lot of surprises

atypical?
A: I don't know if I would call it unusual. We tend to get equity corrections every three to four years. The situation in emerging markets, which began in the fall of 1997, is oot an unusual event, because we have seen boom-and-bust cycles there before.

Q: Large-capitalization stocks have outperformed small-caps for five years in a row now. The performance of the average equity fund has badly lagged the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index. which is up well over 20 percent this year. What does that say? A: It does oot say investors would do

better buying individual stocks than mu-

The return-to-risk raon of individual

Q&A / Hal Reynolds

stocks is far inferior to a well-diversified portfolio. And the Standard & Poor's index is not the market. Moreover, about half the stocks that are in it have returned less than a moneymarket fund this year.

Q: Long-Term Capital Management, the hedge fund that almost failed this antumo, provided a jolt to the financial system. What should we take away from that experience?

A: The lessoos to be learned from Long-Term Capital are much more relevant to institutional investors than in-Institutions went into hedge funds

because they were very concerned about high valuations in the equity market and wanted diversification. But a highly leveraged hedge fund carries similar or higher levels of risk than staying in

The near-collapse of Long-Term Capital stands as a reminder to require transparency, and to have a good riskmonitoring system in place. Bnying into the best and the brightest, which is how Long-Term was seen, isn't good

Q: Markets have been volatile this year. Should we expect more of the same?

A: The first eight years of this decade were a period when equity risk was the lowest it has been in the post-World

that oext year. Q: Why is that?

A: The characteristics of the stock market are different than they used to be. We are getting more return in the form of capital appreciation and less in form of dividends. That makes stocks a riskier asset. The dividend yield in 1990 was as high as 4 percent. Today it is 1.4 percent. That is a pretty dramatic

vestment in 1999?

A: There is a real chance we wno't get strong earnings growth next year. If that happens, we will probably get lower earnings multiples on stocks.

So we think it is a good time for

where the risk is less and returns are One area we like is real estate investment trusts, which have had a bad year. But the fundamentals are strong,

and many REIT stocks are trading with

dividend yields of 6 percent to 6.5 per-

cent. So you get a nice current return and an opportunity for capital appreciation. Q: Emerging markets are a risky asset class that many investors seem to have deserted permanently. Is that a

A: No, I don't think it is.

Higher-risk investments like emerging markets require higher returns, but over longer time periods, oot necessarily five to 10 years.

In these markets, strong economies may oot generate higher stock prices unless there is higher earnings growth. That requires better corporate govterests between shareholders and managers of the business. Those qualities are getting better in

emerging markets. They continue to be very risky, but stock valuations are much better than three years agn. So the picture is improving.

Q: Yoo like bonds as an asset class. Isn't it hard to get investors excited about something that yields only 5 or 6

A: The public isn't that interested in

# **How Low Can Rates Go?**

Bond Analysts Expect Them to Stay Down in 1999

NEW YORK - Economists and big investors in the bond market say low long-term interest rates are here

The yield on the benchmark 30-year U.S. Treasury bond has fallen. about three-quarters of a percentage point this year. The yield, which started last week at 4.99 percent, finished at 5.22 percent as bond prices skidded;" but that still would be the bond's lowest year-end level since 1966. And

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

it may not be much different a year from now. A survey of 22 analysts shows that their average forecast is for a yield of 5.01 percent in 12 months.

"The inflation story is great for bouds," said Mitchell Stapley, who oversees \$3 billion of fixed-income assets at Kent Funds in Grand Rapids. Michigan, "I don't see that changing." Inflation, which cats away at bond

returns, is on track this year to turn in its lowest reading in 12 years. Another measure of price increases followed by many investors - the gross domestic product price deflator grew at an annual rate of only 1.0 percent in the third quarter.

In the four-day workweek before Christmas, bond yields climbed as a

bonds. But yields are still low enough to be a surprise to many investors. "I never thought we'd go down to 5 percent," said Steve Merrell, who

manages about \$2.5 billion of bonds at American Express Asset Management. Now, though, that level is already old hat. "People are pretty comfortable with it," he said.

Por bondholders, the drop in yields this year has translated into an investment return of 16.4 percent on the long-term bond and 11.8 percent for the more actively traded 10-year Treasury note, including price gains By comparison, the Dow Jones industrial average has returned 18.7 per-

cent, including reinvested dividends. Because the 30-year Treasury is a global benchmark for long-term interest rates, low yields mean low borrowing costs for corporations. Homeowners also benefit from low mortg: \_ rates - 30-year mortgage rates fell to an average of 6.49 percent in October, the lowest in more than three decades; and are still close to that at 6.69 percent now --- and bond investors will benefit if rates fall

a Saxon deep

more, as many predict. The low yields make this an ideal. time for companies to issue bonds. Investors and traders estimate that about \$30 hillion of corporate bond rally in stocks drew money away from issues is in the works for January.

# The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, Dec. 31-Jan. 1

# Asia-Pacific

Expected Earnings expected: Chun Tai Hold- Nothing scheduled. This Week ings Ltd., Taiwan Life Insurance Co., Vanda Systems & Communication Holdings Ltd.

Nothing scheduled.

# Monday

Singapore: Industrial production fig- Lisbon: September retail sales fig-Taipei: November index of leading

economic indicators and related da-

Mexico City: October manufacturing compensation and employment Paris: Treasury holds its regular weekly bill auction.

figures. Washington: Agriculture Depart-ment reports on 1998 crop conditions for wheat, com, soybeans and

Taipei: Central bank releases November bounced-check ratio.

Rome: September employment figures for large industries.

Zurich: Swiss Association of Busi ness Economists releases quarterly forecast for economic growth.

Prague: National bank releases bal-

Mexico City: Central bank releases

figures on foreign reserves. Washington: Conference Board releases its consumer confidence index for December.

Nothing scheduled.

ance of payments as of Dec. 20. Government releases November industrial sales figures. Stockholm: November trade balance figures.

Washington: Labor Department releases weekly unemployment

Bogota: Government releases in-

pected to be little changed this week, with many investors away for winter vacations, traders said, but many expect it to rise in the new year. The huliday season is taking most of

the activity out of the market," Robert Katz, a trader at MTB Bank, "Next week will be more of the same."

The dollar rose against the yea and the Deutsche mark Thursday, the last trading session before the Christmas haliday, after a report on the Federal Re-serve Board's November policy meeting signaled that the U.S. central bank probably would not cut interest rates again soon.

those in Japan and Germany, increasing the appeal of the U.S. currency. Ooemonth dollar deposits yield 5.5 percent, compared with 3.25 percent for onemonth mark deposits and 0.2813 per-

cent for one-month yen deposits.

That rate advantage should be enough to keep the dollar steady this week, unless the U.S. stock market collapses, said Hillel Waxman, manager of foreign ex-change at Bank Lemmi USA "As long

# FOREIGN EXCHANGE

as the stock market does O.K., the dollar will do O.K.," he said. Rising U.S. stocks support the dollar because foreign investors need dollars to buy them. .

Mr. Waxman predicted that the dollar would trade in ranges of 115 year to 118 year and 1.65 DM to 1.69 DM this week. Early oext year, the dollar will rise, he and others predicted, amid economic strength in the United States and weakness elsewhere:

The Fed adopted a neutral stance on rates after lowering its benchmark federal funds rate three times beginning Sept. 29. That indicates that the Fed is not leaning toward cutting or raising interest rates.

Dec. 34 Dec. 18% Chiga

The bank's policy-setting Open Market Committee next meets in February. While the committee's minutes sug gested the federal funds rate would stay at 4.75 percent, the Bank of Italy last week cut its target rate to 3 percent. That brought it in line with rates in the 10 other countries adopting Europe's single

currency, the euro, in the new year.

The European Central Bank last week set the starting rate for the euro count tries at 3 percent, as expected. And some traders said the bank might lower rates further amid signs of slower growth.

"The general feeling is that the ECB may be cutting rates in the first part of the year," Robert Katz, a currency trader at MTB Bank, said.

In Japan, falling stock and bond prices kept the yen from rising last week. The bond decline fueled concern that rising interest rates would under mine government efforts to lift the econ omy from its worst recession in 50

Dec. 31

Friday

Wednesday Bangkok: Bank of Thailand releases monthly economic report, including preliminary yearly figures. Tokyo: Bank of Japan releases figures on average interest retes per annum for different types of de-

Sydney: Reserve Bank of Australia releases credit aggregates for

Lisbon: European Union announces rates at which the euro will be converted into national curren-

Nothing scheduled.

Washington: Mortgage Bankers Association of America's weekly report on mortgage applications.

Chicago: Chicago Purchasing Managers Association releases manufacturing index for December. Washington: Conference Board reports November leading economic

Last Week's Markets Money Rates

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income during the period.

• PREDICTIONS ARE DAN-

War II era, with volatility running at about 12 percent. Io 1998, it was closer to 20 perceot. We think it will be close to

Q: Why will stocks be a risky in-

investors to lonk at sectors of the market

bonds. But we need to look at these yields relative to inflatioo, which over the last 12 mooths is running at under 2 percent. With the global economy slowing down, it is unlikely that inflation is going to pick up. As a result, real interest rates are gning to remain very attractive.

# New Dollar Gains Are Seen After a Holiday Lull

Bloomberg News
NEW YORK — The dollar is ex-

Unchanged rates would keep yields on dollar deposits and bonds higher than

# Prices Will Still Vary

Continued from Page 1

fosting prices in curos and plan to start teating in curos on credit-card pur-ribases as early as next week. Banks are fequited to let their customers keep their accounts in euros or the local currency. and all interbank transfers will be cleared in euros.

Companies such as DaimlerChrysler AG and Siemens AG are converting their books and prodding suppliers to kal in curos as quickly as possible.

Big retailers such as Carrefour SA in

France and Metro AG in Germany are seefing ap their computer systems to tatch suppliers' pricing discrepancies. Car companies are grudgingly bringing prices into closer alignment from comby to country. Computer manufacturers, generating more sales through the boxderless Internet, are doing the same.

Still, those who expect Adam Smith's invisible hand to swiftly eliminate price differences are likely to be disappointnd. European prices are rooted in big social and institutional differences that companies have learned to respect.

Total Design 5. Consumer buying power, for example, is much weaker in Spain and Portugal, where personal incomes are about 25 percent lower than the European average. Aspirin is more expensive in Germany in part because laws aimed at protecting small pharmacies prohibit supermarkets from selling it. Groceries are expensive in Paris, the city has prohibited high-volume hypermarkets within its boundaries. Sales taxes and luxury taxes also vary.

"I think the euro will bring lower prices over all but that the price differences will be more or less the ones we have right now," said Stephane Donchy, a market analyst at Test-Achats, a consumer research association based in Brussels...

With the euro, "there will be greater price transparency," added Harald Muenzberg, a retail industry expert at Gemini Consulting in Bad Homburg, Germany. Still, he said; it will remain "relatively difficult" to figure out

"There are many different prices for many different products," he added. There are discounts, advertising allowances, rebates. All of that leads to

different pricing." For people such as Mr. Gossens of Braun, which is owned by Gillette Corp., it adds up to big struggles ahead. "Our customers are coming to us and saying, 'We want to pay the lowest prices possible,' "he said. "But what is that?"

The customers Mr. Gossens has in mind are people such as Vincent de Meanx, who coordinates euro planning at Carrefour Based in Paris, the company bwos nearly 200 hypermarkets in Europe and 100 in Asia and Latin America. Mr. de Meanx says he is looking forward to the euro; he expects retailers families prefer smaller bottles tailored my Coke from Spain because it's cheap-to grab more infinence over pricing to individuals. Nestle has scores of vari-

By John Tagliabne New York Times Service ROME - Andrew Windsor is already nostalgic. "It will be a real shame," said Mr. Windsor, head of

retail operations at Thomas Cook Group, the British travel-services company, to see venerable European currencies such as the French franc. the pesers and the lira just disappear. Travelers, he said, "see using for-eign notes and coins as an exciting and

integral part of their holidays."

The romance is lost, however, on Geofficy Lipman, president of the World Travel and Tourism Council. Emptying his wallet during a recent phone conversation, he listed the bank notes he found.

"Pounds sterling, Belgian francs, American dollars," Mr. Lipman said with a grown: "And before I cleaned it this week, I had German marks, too." Nostalgic or not, come Friday, travelers to Europe will encounter 11 nations undertaking a historic shift -

the replacement of their currencies by the euro. The extent of the change will not be immediately obvious. In most places in the euro zone, prices will still be posted in local currencies. Travelers who need cash will still have to change dollars for marks, francs, lire or other familiar bills. Euro coins and bills will not appear until 2002.

But beginning Friday, the local currencies will all simply be denominations of the euro. Travelers changing money will in fact be trading dollars for euros but pocketing them in the form of marks, francs or the like.

"The market dynamics have existed

for several years already," he said re-cently in Paris. "But this will make

more pressure on suppliers; that is obvious. It's not going to happen overnight on Jan. 1, It will take a few years. But it

Carrefour sells just about everything,

from fresh fish to personal computers,

relying on huge volume to eke out profits from small margins. With total

sales this year of about \$32 billion, it

competes ferociously on price and puts

ficiently confounding — and so deeply rooted — that even giant retailers can

For one thing, European consumers

have widely varying tastes, which

means that identical goods are not sold

everywhere and that comparison pricing

across borders can be tricky. Italians

like big "family-sized" bottles of shampoo, for instance, while French families prefer smaller bottles tailored

Yet European incongruities are suf-

constant pressure on suppliers.

hardly expect to call all the shots.

from the hands of suppliers.

will be a big change."

right away, they can — hy avoiding cash. Thomas Cook will join American Express Co. in issuing euro-denominated traveler's checks. Credit cards and debit cards will also allow payment in curos, depending on whether the store, hotel or airline is prepared to accept them. If they do, and if the customers have dollar-de-

Will the Old Currencies Be Missed?

then translate them into dollars. Over time, the use of a common corrency across a wide swath of Europe should produce significant benefits for visitors — though not without certain risks.

nominated cards, their monthly state-

ments will show transactions in curos.

In a paper presented this month at a meeting in Washington, the National Business Travel Association, a group of American corporate travel managers, said the euro would ultimately eliminate many expenses of changing money, which it estimated at \$13 to \$14 a transaction. The common currency will also enable travelers to easily spot

price differences for travel services.

The danger? That the euro will also shine a floodlight on corporate expense accounts. Without the cloud of receipts in a dozen strange currencies, the boss back home will more easily spot profligacy, the report warned.

In an American Express survey, 58 percent of European business travelers said that once the euro arrived they would broaden their search for less expensive travel services.

In the poll, conducted this year among 200 business travelers, 70 percent said they thought travel companies

preferences from Italy to Scandinavia.

National regulations add to the com-

plexity. French retailing, for example, is

unique in Europe, because stores are prohibited from charging more for

products than they show on their own

invoices. Instead, retailers earn their

profits by negotiating with suppliers to

obtain rebates and other payments for

promotional services. The money works

out about the same, but the practice

makes international comparisons far

Different commies also have very dif-

ferent retailing systems, some more ef-

ficient than others. High-volume hyper-

markets have a strong presence in France

and Spain, but Germany has a high pro-

On top of all this are logistical ri-

gidities that are the modern tracings of

hundreds or thousands of years of na-tional divisions on the Continent. "Car-

refour can't just say, 'Well, I'll buy all

portion of smaller specialty stores.

more complicated

If travelers want to deal in euros such as airlines and car rental agencies would be forced to cut prices.

Of course, corporate travel departments that insist on doing business in euros will have to invest to update their computer software, and they may oced to renegotiate contracts for bulk services with airlines and hotel chains. But if overall prices start falling because of the introduction of the euro, travel companies, facing lower profits. may be less willing to negotiate dis-

counts for corporate customers. The travel industry, fearing that prices will drop, has been in no hurry to embrace the euro, according to Reinhard Schulte-Braucks, a European Union official who helps companies

prepare for the new currency.
Still, travelers will find a continent in transition next year, said Hasan Alemdar, euro program manager for Visa International in London.

In some places, such as Germany, there probably will be separate cash registers for marks and euros; in France and Spain, stores will probably accept payment in the local currency or in euros at the same point of sale. In a third group of countries, many stores may not immediately be ready to trade in euros, so they will require payment in the old local currency and merely inform the customer of the euro amount on a separate receipt.

Experts advise travelers to count their change carefully - but not to count on any windfalls.

"It's like switching from Celsius to Fahrenheit," Mr. Schulte-Braucks said. "It doesn't get warmer or colder; you don't get richer or poorer."

arions on the formula for Nescafe, to to supply 130 stores in France, you can't take account of regional coffee-drinking change all your suppliers every time someone offers a lower price."

Price comparisons can even be difficult on the Internet. Consider the experience of Dell Computer Corp., which sells about \$2 million of personal-computer equipment a day in Western Europe over the World Wide Web.

When Deli began marketing over the Web in 1996, it equalized prices across boundaries. Nonetheless, consumers were nudged in different directions by means of separate home pages for almost every country.

As a result, comparing prices is anything but simple. Customers who log on to the German page find that the basic home computer is a modest machine that costs about 2,895 Deutsche marks, or \$1,722. The prices and complexity go up from there. Those who log on to the Spanish page are led to an entirely different series of computers. This list starts with a model that sells at 347,000 pesetas, or \$2,424, and from there the prices and complexity go down — ultimately below the cheapest Gennan packages.

# SHORT COVER

### **Murdoch Seals Deal** With Telecom Italia

MILAN (Combined Dispatches) — Telecom Italia SpA plans to sell 80 percent of its Stream pay-television channel to News Corp., giving Rupert Murdoch a long-sought entry to the Italian television market.

Telecom Italia said Saturday that partners from Italy and other European countries could be included in the even-

The state telecommunications company, which is being privatized, said Stream was valued on the basis of \$1,350 per subscriber. Stream claims 110,000 subscribers, giving the company a total value of \$148.5 million. That values the 80 percent stake at \$118.8 million.

Separately, Kirch Group refused to comment Sunday on a report that News Corp. hoped to take a \$1 billion stake in the holding company being formed through the restructuring of the German media company. Focus magazine reported the other two international investors would be Prince Walid ibn Talal of Saudi Arabia and the Italian media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi. (AP, Bloomberg)

### AngloGold Completes Minorco Unit Purchase

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — AngloGold Ltd., the world's largest gold producer, said Sunday that it had paid \$550 million for control of Minorco SA's gold interests, completing a deal it

announced in October. The acquisition will be effective Thursday, the company said. It is expected to decrease the company's earnings per share by 5 percent and increase the net asset value per share by 10 percent.

### Seoul Will Aid Banks

SEOUL (Bloomberg) - South Korea plans to inject 1.78 trillion won (\$1.48 hillion) into Kookmin Bank and four other lenders that acquired weaker rivals this year as part of governmentled financial reforms.

The Finance and Economy Ministry said Saturday that it would buy a total of 600 billion won of bonds from the five banks, while Korea Deposit Insurance Corp., a state-run agency, would buy 1,18 million won of new shares in the lenders Monday.

The government shut down five ailing banks in June and asked Kookmin Bank, Housing & Commercial Bank, Shinhan Bank, Koram Bank and Hana Bank to acquire assets and liabilities of the five shat lenders, which accounted for 7.3 percent of Korean bank loans.

### Iran Warns OPEC

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iran said Sunday that it would back any new moves to rescue the besieged oil market but warned that some fellow OPEC pro-

IN THIS WEEK'S DOUBLE ISSUE

ducers were using Tehran's controver. sial demands to mask other problems in the fractious cartel.

Iran's representative to the oil cartel, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, said Tehran would support holding an enter-gency meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to lift oil prices from that are now at 12-year lows.

But Mr. Ardebili, a key adviser to the Iranian oil minister, said Tehran would not back down from its demands to calculate any of its own cuts from a higher baseline. He said his country was being used as a scapegoat by other OPEC members to cover up a bitter battle for market share at a time of high oil supplies and croding demand because of the Asian financial crisis.

### For the Record

DaimlerChrysler AG expects 1998 sales to rise 13 percent and profit to exceed last year's figures of the nowcombined Daimler-Benz AG and Chrysler Corp.

Mitsui Trust & Banking Co. plans to sell half of its share holdings, now valued at some 1.6 trillion yen (\$13.77 billion) in book value, in four years to improve its financial health, the Nihon Keizi Shimbun reported Sunday. The bank may also consider abandoning all stakes in big companies to trim its exposure to volatile stock prices. (AFP)

# Seoul Warns LG Over Resistance

Agence France-Presse SEOUL — The South Korean presidential office warned Sunday that banks would impose sanctions against LG Group for denting a yearlong government battle to restructure the country's crisis-hit industrial sector.

"Financial sanctions are inevitable if LG remains opposed to the merger," Park Ji Won, a presidential spokesman, said.

The warning followed an announcement that LG Semicon Ltd. would spe Arthur D. Little & Co. for 'damages and libel" over its evaluation of LG's management. The American consultancy has judged Hyundai Electronics Ind. as better positioned for managing a giant semiconductor unit to be created in a merger with LG Semicon.

Koo Bon Joon, president of LG Semicon, accused the consultancy of using "distorted information provided by one side." He said LG Semicon would take action against the company, probably in January. LG's challenge fueled resent-

ment among government officials, who have touted the semiconductor merger as the centerpiece of South Korea's corporate restructuring.

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# THEME: Trendy Restaurant Chains Are Forced Onto Crash Diet

International, which operates analyst with Nationsbane Earl is being that the public 98 restaurants as well as hotels, concert venues and a record company.

The present situation is a same-store sales at chains like far cry from the mid-1990s.

Planet Hollywood, Mr.

At Planet Hollywood, Mr.

Earl is being that the public has not lost its taste for theme restaurants. In January, the logical factor of the diop in the present situation is a same-store sales at chains like far cry from the mid-1990s.

Continued from Fage 11

Robert Earl, the impresario who helped Hard Rock exhole helped Hard Rock exhol

charte famous chefs.

"The industry's going to City opened nearby.

"There was a time when somewhat violently, either investors and operators thought that theme restaurants were a sure-fire formula for making lots of money," said said twas terrible. What do you need more than one There, president and chief executive of Hard Rock Cafe ecutive of Hard Rock Cafe investors and strongers and the public investors are sure-fire formula for making lots of money," said and it was terrible. What do you need more than one Themes are sure-fire formula for making lots of money," said said twas terrible. What do you need more than one Themes are sure-fire formula for making lots of money, and it was terrible. What do you need more than one Themes are sure-fire formula for making lots of money, and it was terrible. What do you need more than one Themes are sure-fire formula for making lots of money, and it was terrible. What do you need more than one Themes are sure-fire formula for making lots of money.

AMSTERDAM DEPOSTTARY COMPANY N.V. Amsterdam, 22 December, 1998

Referring to the advertisement of 23 September 1997 (he undersigned announces that as from 30 December 1998 honus dividend no. 99 of CDRs Incursoff-Rand Company will be payable in cash with Nig. 440.26 per CDR repr. 5 shares at Kas-Associatic N.V., Spuistrast 172, Amsterdam.

# **Business Week's**

# Investment Outlook

Why Shell needs to step on the gas

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NOTICE OF MEETING Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of PANDA SICAV will be held at the Registered Office in Lumenbourg. 10A. Benjerard Royal, co:

Monday 18th January, 1999 at 11 a.m.,

for the purpose of considering the following Agends: 1. Management Report of the Directors for the year ended 30th September, 1998. Report of the Auditor for the year ended 30th September, 1998.

3. Appeared of the Annual Accounts as at 30th September, 1998 and appropriation of the earnings. 4. Discharge to the Directors in respect of the execution of their mandates to 30th September, 1998.

5. Composition of the Board of Directors. Election of the Auditor for a new term of one year. The present notice and a form of printy are sent to all registered shareholders on record at 6th January, 1999.

required to deposit their shares before January 12th, 1999 at the The registered shareholders have to inform by mail (letter or proxy form) the Roard of Directors of their intention to extend the

In order to attend the meeting, the owners of bearer shares are

PAGE 14 U.S. MUTUAL FUNDS | Org. | Name | Dec. | Control | Con Acroff 16.08 + 52

Acroff 16.08 + 52

Intil 20 + 52 ### Grant | 15.1 - 1885 |
### First | 10.7 - 1885 |
### First | 10.7 - 1885 |
### Houghton | 10.7 - 1.1 |
### First | 13.6 - 2.1 |
### First | 1 | Selection | Sele 

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After Injury, Austrian Bests Her Teammate, Meissnitzer, in Giant Slalom

SEMMERING, Austria Wachter stormed to an emotional victory in a World Cup giant slalom Sunday in front of 15,000 delighted home fans.

Wachter, at 31 the oldest skier on the women's circuit, celebrated her unexpected 15th career victory hy edging out her Austrian compatriot and the race favorite, Alexandra Meissnitzer.

Wachter's triumph was a surprise, as her 14-year career was almost ended by a knee Andrine Flemmen of Norway who won this injury she suffered last January in a Super-G crash at Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy.

Wachter stormed down the fast, perfectly prepared Hirschenkogel course in a two-run combined time of 2 minutes, 7.90 seconds, beating Meissnitzer by a clear margin of 0.74 seconds. It was her first victory since she won a giant slalom to January 1996 in Cortina.

Meissnitzer had won five races in three disciplines this season. Despite the secondplace finish, she increased her commanding lead in the overall standings and is now

- Anita many, who placed seventh Sunday.

The result was the first one-two finish for Austrian women in a giant slalom

### WORLD CUP SKIING

Wachter placing second in Santa Caterina, Italy, in 1993.

season's opening giant slalom in Soelden, Austria. Flemmen was eighth in the first run but posted a brilliant second leg to

Birgit Heeh of Liechtenstein, third after the first leg, dropped to fourth overall, while Anna Ottosson of Sweden climbed three places after the first leg to finish fifth

Wachter's injury caused her to miss the Nagano Olympics and kept her off the

slopes for four mooths. When she returned, the 1988 Olympic

351 points ahead of Martina Ertl of Ger-many, who placed seventh Sunday. gold medalist and 1993 overall World Cup champion decided to compete only in the technical disciplines this season - the slalom and giant slalom.

"I didn't know how my knees would react to a full load," she said. "Now I see it was a good decision. I cannot describe how since the late Ulrike Maier won with I feel, it is an unbelievable victory which I wasn't counting on.'

Wachter's previous season's best had been third in a giant slalom at Val d'Isere. Italy, earlier this month.

'I gained a lot of self-confidence from that race," she said. "I knew I could be in the top three today, but the victory is a big surprise.'

Meissnitzer squandered her chance for a third consecutive giant slalom victory with an overly cantious second run in which she finished a disappointing 10th.

She said she had slowed in the second

run because she was "terrified of crashing out at home. Meissnitzer had won two of the first four

giant slaloms this season.



Anita Wachter of Austria en route to winning the women's giant slalom event Sunday in Semmering.

# As Storms Hit Australia Race, Navy Searches For Yachtsmen

SYDNEY, Australia - A search involving Australian Navy helicopters using night vision continued Monday for a crewman swept overboard from one yacht and for the nine-member crew of another boat missing in huge seas during the Sydney-to-Hobart race.

Winds gusting at more than 75 knots slammed into the fleet on the second day ; of the 630-nautical mile race down the east coast of Australia, sweeping two men overboard in heavy seas. Radio reports, unconfirmed by race

officials, said that up to 20 sailors might be missing.
The sailor being sought by the navy

was swept overboard from Sword of Orion when the 42-foot (13-meter) yacht rolled Sunday night in wild seas in Bass Strait off the southeast coast, Several crewmen were injured, one

with a broken leg. The yacht, which has a crew of 11, was halfway across the strait, heading toward Hohart and the finish line in the annual race. David Gray, an Australian Maritime , Safety Authority spokesman, said three

people had been evacuated from Sword of Orion hy a Sea King helicopter. Six in a serious condition.

Gray said he also was "extremely concerned" about the crew aboard the Winston Churchill. There had been no contact with the cutter for about 12 hours. The ship was an entrant in the first Sydney-Hobart race, in 1945.

"Her crew are apparently in a life raft," said Brian Hill, another authority spokesman. Gray said four distress beacons had

been received during Sunday night but had yet to be identified. All shipping in the Bass Strait has been alerted as high winds and huge

seas smash remnants of the 115-boat Earlier, as winds gusted to 80 knots

and seas of 35 feet caused havoc to the fleet, several rescues took place. A police helicopter rescued John

. Campbell, an American, who was swept overboard when the Victorian yacht Kingurra rolled over.

Campbell was in the water for about 40 minutes and was suffering from hypothermia when he was pulled to safety

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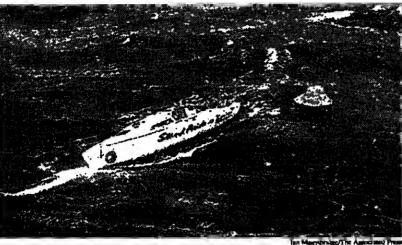
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*OCIETY* 



The dismasted yacht Stand Aside floating off Australia's southeast coast Sunday, as high winds forced 37 boats out of the Sydney-Hobart race.

Another helicopter lifted the entire crew of 12 from VC Offshore Stand Aside, whose mast had been de-

Several crew members were injured, with one losing several fingers and another receiving head injuries.

Thirty-seven yachts have been forced to retire from the race. The Tasmanian 40-footer Business Post Naiad rolled over, as did the Solo

hy Barry Barclay, a senior constable who dropped into 20-foot seas.

Another helicopter lifted the entire tural damage or been dismasted and were either being towed or escorted into Eden in southern New South Wales.

Through it all, the American maxi Sayonara held a narrow lead over indabella, the winner last year. Although both boats were forced to

reduce speed, they were still well on the way to setting a race record. In 1996, the German maxi Morning Glory set the mark of two days, 14 hours, 7 minutes Globe Challenger. Several other yachts and 10 seconds. (AP, Remers)

South Africa Leads West Indies in Test

# Chelsea Powers Back to the Top

# Aston Villa Loses, Giving Up Lead in English Premier League

Chelsea returned to the top of the English Premier League with a 2-0 victory at struggling Southampton as Aston

team, Blackburn Rovers. Tore Andre Flo, a Norwegian striker, and Gustavo Poyet, a Urugnayan mid-fielder, scored for Chelsea, which is un-

Villa went down, 2-1, at another lowly

WORLD SOCCER ROUNDUP

beaten in 18 Premier League games since losing on the first day of the sea-

Chelsea moved to the top on goal difference as Villa squandered its threepoint lead. After Kevin Gallacher put the Rovers ahead, Villa was reduced to 10 men when Michael Oakes, its goalkeeper, was sent off for handling the ball outside his penalty area. Ricardo Sci-meca leveled for Villa but, with two minntes to play, Tim Sherwood scored the winner for Blackburn.

After six games without a victory, Manchester United beat last place Nottingham Forest, 3-0. Ronny Johnsen, a Norwegian defender, scored the first two and Ryan Giggs added the other. United and Chelsea meet on Tuesday.

Ian Wright returned to Highbury as a West Ham player but his new team lost, 1-0, after an early strike by Marc Overmars, the Gunners' Dutch winger. The victory lifted Arsenal, the reigning champion, to fifth.

Alan Shearer and Duncan Ferguson, Newcastle's £22 million (\$36.87 million) played together for the first time since Ferguson's move from Everton a month ago but they failed to find the net while Leeds scored three, from about as many attacks. Harry Kewell, Lee Bowyer and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink gave

eeds victory.
SOUTH AMERICA Palmeiras beat a isibly tired Brazilian rival Cruzeiro, 3-Saturday, in the second game of the final of the Mercosur Cup. :

Cruzeiro won the first game 2-1 in its home city of Belo Horizonte and needed only a draw in Sao Paulo, home of Palmeiras, to capture the title. Palmeiras had to win to force a third game, which will also take place in Sao Paulo.

On Wednesday, Cruzeiro lost the 1998 Brazilian Championship to the Corinthians in the deciding third game

of a hard-fought series.
Cruzeiro had played 80 games this season, Samrday's match was its eighth against Palmeiras. The teams played twice in the final of the Copa Brasil, with Palmeiras winning on aggregate, and three times in a Brazilian cham-pionship quarterfinal that Cruzeno won-They also met once in the first stage of

On Saturday, Cruzeiro took the lead after two minutes with a penalty converted by Fabio Junior. Arce leveled after nine minutes with a header. Palmeiras kept up a relentless attack against a singgish Cruzeiro which had not trained since losing to Corinthians. In the second half, Oseas and Paulo

Nunes scored for Palmeiras.

"For the past two months, every game has been a life and death situation,

logical toll," said Levir Culpi, the Cruzeiro coach. "But winning the Mercosur Cup is a question of honor."

It's also a question of finances. The Copa Mercosur, in its inaugural year, is played between the leading clubs from Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Chile and Uruguay, who take part by invitation. It is conducted primarily for television. The winning team will receive \$3.9 million from the South American Soc-

SPAIN Johan Cruyff, the former Barcelona coach and player, said that if Jose Lins Nunez, the club's president, wants a reconciliation he must withdraw accusations be made when he sacked Cruyff, Spanish newspapers reported

Nunez had said Saturday that he had sent Cruyff a letter intended to patch up the dispute between them. The club's current manager, Louis van Gaal, is unpopular with fans who have been urging that he, and Nunez, be fired. Many have called for the return of Cruy-ff. Numez's letter fueled speculation in the Spanish media that he is preparing to do just that.

do just that.

But Cruyff said he was still seething from accusations when sacked in April 1996. Cruyff, quoted in the Spanish press, said: "I demand Barcelona withdraw claims I cheated supporters and milked my mage as coach for financial and political gain."

Nunez had written to Cruyff about two matches in his honor. The matches were part of Cruyff's severance mark-

were part of Cruyiff's severance package, but never took place because re-lations between Cruyff and the club

have been so poor. · Cruyif was not invited to the launching of the club's centenary celebrations in November, and his name was not mentioned among the club's past gior-ies. In his letter, Nunez offered to stage the matches on March 10 and April 6 as part of the centenary celebrations.

**Muserum** 

(AP, AFP, Reuters)

### Cullinan and Cronje put on 60 for the fourth wicket and Cullinan and Rhodes Rose captured a test-best of six wickadded 42 for the fifth wicket, a stand that collapsed and it was out for 207. Australia, having already retained the ended needlessly when Cullinan was

South Africa the edge over West Indies in the face of inspired fast bowling by Franklyn Rose in the third test Sunday.

ets for 75 runs as South Africa scored 292 for eight in reply to West Indies'

# CRICKET ROUNDUP

first innings of 198 before bad light ended play on the second day.

Rhodes timed and placed the ball beautifully, his 123-ball innings containing eight fours and two sixes. He was the dominant figure in a South African fightback after they were reduced to 80

for three during the morning session.

Daryll Cullinan (40) and captain

Hansie Cronje (30) launched the resixth wicker partnership of 80.

West Indies, already trailing 2-0 in the five-test series, made a good start

international

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run out after a pinpoint throw from Rose on the boundary to Ridley Jacobs, the wicket keeper. Rhodes and Pollock then added a brisk partnership of 80.

no wicket to 80 for three.

NEW ZEALAND vs. INDIA Gritty bat-ting by a couple of tail-end batsmen Sunday gave New Zealand a slight edge over India at the end of the second day of the second test in Wellington.

After India scored 208 runs in its first innings, New Zealand reached 290 for seven wickets, with Dion Nash and Daniel Vettori, both bowlers, scoring 82 in an unbroken stand late in the day.

when Rose dismissed Gary Kirsten. The first day had been rained out. DURBAN, South Africa — Jonty
Rhodes stroked an unbeaten 85 to give the home country declined from 57 for four runs, but Stewart hit 107 as they rallied to reach 200 for the loss of three wickets. After Stewart was dismissed, England's lower-order batting again

> Ashes with a 2-0 lead with two to play, reached 59 for two wickets when play was stopped because of bad light. (Reuters, AP, AFP)

and that has taken a heavy psycho-

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HOCKEY

**NHL Standings** 

PACIFIC DIVISION

W L 7 Phs. GP GA

21 S 6 48 98 65

20 6 4 44 89 56

13 12 7 33 75 73

10 15 7 27 69 74

10 21 3 23 74 93

PRIBAT RESULTS
No games scheduled

Mactive:

1 9 1-2
Toroush
1 0 0-1
Pirst Period: T-Thomas 12 (Standin Modin).
2 M-Weisnich Second Protes Nore: Third Period: M-Clothed 10 (Roston) Shrift on goods: M-16-8-3-27, T-9-11-10-30. Geoldes: M-Hockett. T-Joseph.
Boston
0 1 1-2
N.Y. Microders
2 9 2-4
Pirst Period: N.Y.-Putify 1 (Charo) 2; N.Y.-Linden-11 (Czestawiski, Josephon) (pp).
Second Period: B-C.Torkor 3 (Bourque-Forme) Third Period: B-Cardon 3 (Miscolary).
(Alicon) S. N.Y.-Weith (Aliller). Lawrence) 6.
N.Y.-Lapointe 9 (Linder) (str). Stock on goods.

Rucinsia) 9, C-Emerson ( (Dineen, Kapanen) (pp). Shets on yout: N.Y.-2-10-8-20, C-7-5-11--23. Gootles: N.Y.-Richter, C-Irba, Kidd. Flection 1 1 1--3 Texape Bey 0 1 6-1 East Variat: F-Mallonby 7 (Acades, Syehila)

Floridu

Trompt Bay

Trompt Bay

1 1 1—1

Trompt Bay

1 1 1—2

Trompt Bay

T.B.-Sebronov 4 (Hogue, Lecovolitar) Third

Parled: F-Lindsoy 5 (Hicks) (an.). Shels an

goot: F- 16-10-7—35. T.B.-3-15-6—24.

Goodless: F-2brise. T.B.-Ramiond.

Boffsilo

1 1—2

Kew Jersey

8 6 0—0

Flest Parled: Norse. Second Parled: B-Solon.

11 (Grossil) Third Parled: B-Solon.

12 (Brown, Grossil) (on). Shots an good: B-9-9.

6—24. H.J.-T-18-9—94. Grossies: B-Honek.

N.J.-Brodov.

Kaziovi Saots en goet D-9-16-7-32 S.L.-9-12-11-22. Goulles: D-Osgood. S.L.-Fuhr.

Westhingten

1 0 0 1-1

Hordwille

1 2 1 0-3

First Period: Neahville, Borginner 1

(Brunche, Rowning) 2, Mostrette, Yockmenev 3 (Johnson) Second Period: Nostrette, Rowning) 4, Westhotte, Yockmenev 3 (Johnson) Second Period: Nostrette, Johnson 4 (Yockmenev, Berschwalty) Third Period: Yellord. Second Period: Nostrette 13-94-28. Geniles: W-Kottle, Tohorouci, Nostrette Volcova.

Define Period: C-Messier 1 (Corbet, Heights). Second Period: D-Holl 11 (Modena, Sydor). (pp). 3, Clemieur 10 (Foote, Forsberg) (pp). 4 D., Landmen 12 (Holl, Sydor) (pp). Third Period: D-Holl 12 (Modena, Latellinen) (pp). 6. D-Langenbruncer 6 (Minomendyk, Marsholl) Sharts on good: D-8-9-6-23. C-6-9-5-19. Geniles: D-Toruk, C-Roy, Billington: Vescourer Set Jace 8 1 1-2

First Period: S.L.-Ricct 2 (Monthesent, Sturm) Shebs on good: V-7-8-10-25. S.L-9-7-11-37. Geniles: V-Sturu, S.J.-Shielde.

Phenok: Las Angeles 8 1 1-2

First Period: LA Targainton 8 (Rossa) Second Period: P-Roenick 14 (Drobe, Cormer) Third Period: P-Roenick 14 (Drobe,

SKIING WORLD CUP WOMEN'S STANT STALOM

Heeb, Lichtenstein, 209-25; 5. Anna Often-son, Sweden, 209-37; 6. Jorden Kostelid, Croofia, 2-10-12; 7. Martina Edil, Germany, 7 2-10,13; 8. Sodia Nel, Swiftzerland, 2-10,31; 9. Permiller Wilberg, Sweden, 2-10,45; 10. Speln Preinoz Siovenia, 2-10,53. 04ANT SLALOM STANDMORE, (2000-2) orange, 1. Medisoritzer, 360 points; 2. Flegi-man, 239; 3. Wachter, 196; 4. Heeb, 160; 5. Kastelic, 152; 6. Eril, 142; 7. Deborch Com-pognani, Huly, 146; 8. Leilar Piccard, Prance, 159; 9. Otherson, 113; 10. Carlance Rey Bellet, Switzerland, 102. OVERALL: STANDONGO IMPRES.

Coversity 1. Toftenham 1
Everton Q. Derby 0
Manchesiter United 3. Notlingham Forest
Middlesbrough 1. Diverpool 3
Newcastin Q. Leads 3
Sheffield Wednesday Q. Leicester 1
Southompton Q. Chelton 2
Winstedon 2. Charton 1
STAMONEROE Chelton 30 points: Actor Viljo
36: Manchester United 34: Leeds 32: Amengl
32: Middlesbrough 30: West 1-ham 29:
Winstedon 29: Liverpool 28: Leicester 27:
Detby 25: Newcastie 24: Toftenham 24: Everton 23: Sheffield Wednesday 22: Blackburn
17: Coversty 17: Charton 14: Southampton 13:
Notlingham Forest 12.

TRANSITIONS

Lemanski Holl. Signed G Acton Toylor from procifice squad. CINCRIBATI—Put GB Jeff Bloke on Injerial

covery, which was sustained by Rhodes and all-rounder Shaun Pollock (30) in a ENGLAND VS. AUSTRALIA In Melbourne, Alec Stewart, the England cap-

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CRICKET

tain, scored his first century on the second day of the fourth test on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD BASEBALL

No. 2. Kerlocky (10-3) lost to Loutoville 83-74. No. 16. Germon (11-1) det, Furmon 67-54. £££prin6 cock\_free scores George Washington 91, Bradley 71

New Zeoland: 290-7
SOSTH AFRICA VS. WEST INDI
THURSD TEST, 2ND DAY
SUNDAY, IN DURBAN
West Indies: 198 of Bout
South Africe: 292-8

FOOTBALL NFL STANDINGS

EAST W L T Pct. PF PA 11 4 0 733 385 256 10 5 9 667 305 227 9 6 0 660 127 298 9 6 0 600 335 300 3 12 0 200 291 417 CENTRAL 10 5 0 .567 3J1 335 8 8 0 .590 380 370 7 8 0 .467 260 292 5 10 0 333 250 325 3 12 D 200 258 417

WEST 13 2 0 .867 473 288 8 7 0 .533 351 282 8 8 5 0 .500 288 350 7 9 0 .438 327 363 5 10 0 .332 229 326

CENTRAL
1S 1 0 .938 556 296
10 S 0 .667 392 306
7 8 0 .461 279 295
S 10 0 .333 296 339
4 11 0 .267 263 352

St. Louis 4 11 Carolina 3 12 x-clarched playoff berth Konsos City 31, Dekland 24

(Allicon) S. N.Y.-Wedt 8 (Miller, Lewrence) & N.Y.-Lepolitie 9 (Lindert) (str). Shock on good: 8. 10-7-10-27, N.Y.-5-8-21, Godies: 9. Dafoe N.Y.-Floherty. 1. Godies: 9. Dafoe N.Y.-Floherty. 1. 9. 2-3. First Period: C-Kapanan 8 (Sheppand, Primeta) Second Period: N.Y.-Neched 6 (Levich, Sequencent) 2, N.Y.-Streems 8 (Ndrs, Neched) 4, N.Y.-Neched 7 (Cauble, Sundstand) 4, N.Y.-Neched 7 (Cauble, Sundstand) 4, N.Y.-Papanie 1, Neched, Sendstand) 7, N.Y.-Graves Li (Prooper, Beutschoom) 6, N.Y.-Papanie 1, Neched, Sondstand) 7, N.Y.-Graves 15 (Savand, Kauble) Tidan Period-C-Roberts 6 (Emerators.) COLLEGE BOWL GAMES

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Australia: 59-2 HIW THALAND YS. INDIA India: 208 New Zealand: 296-7

EAST 9 6 0 400 358 268 0 7 0 533 209 265 7 8 0 467 267 299 6 9 0 400 312 398 3 12 0 200 151 324

WEST 13 2 0 .567 404 273 11 4 0 .233 447 309 6 7 0 .410 272 314 4 11 0 .267 266 340

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Street Programme

m Deals

Viginia

concensor—Promoted Chief Bender to se-nior advisor for player development and Boad Kollman to director of brashold operations. \* FOSTRALL BAGUET CHICASO—Re-Signed P Todd Somethran to 1-year contract and CT Jurany Hemdon to 3-year contract. Agreed to hums with LB Lamanski Hall. Signed G Acron Taylor from procifice sound.

Posts Ke

Added FB Clif Groce to make.

Added FB Clif Groce to make.

MODARAPOLE—Activoled WR Kelpo McSufel from practice squed. Fut LB Anche Royet and DE Kendel Shello on injured reserve.

Acceptant LS—Put DL Rendido Wyne of biqued reserve. Signed LB Erik Stort from practice squed. Signed DB Heron CNeot to proctice squed.

MAMINISTER WR Lamer Thomas and CB Jerry Witson to contract extensions.

MATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

SHL—Suppended Tamps Boy C Chris Grotton for 2 gomes for spitting at presence Pout Seems for Wednesday's pame or Burlinde.

DALLAS—Reculed F Kelly Fairchild and D Royel Lidewich from Michigon; III.

MOSTREAL—Named Jocques Langle and Illin to 3-year continued.

PITISBURGH—Reculed G Jeon Sabnation.

Author from Karren Clay. Hill

COLLEGE

LENGES—Amounced Hint basketball staffing and Service with transfer.

MICHIGAN STATE—Manascocked former RES Service with transfer.

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# **SPORTS**

# Tampa Bay Wins Big To Keep Hopes Alive Rucs Shuts Out Bengals in Must-Win Game the third time in 1

CINCINNATI - The Tampa Bay Buccaneers overcame the cold and the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday as the team gained its biggest and potentially most important road victory ever.

Mike Alstott, the Buccaneer fullback, had two of his three touchdown runs during a 28-point first half that set up a 35-0 victory over the Bengals — the

NFL BOUNDUP

most lopsided road victory in Tampa Bay's history. After recording the third shutout in franchise history, the Buccaneers (8-8) headed home for the warmth of Florida

unsure whether their season was over.

They would clinch a wild card berth if the New York Giants won and Arizona lost in games that started shortly after the Buccaneers' ended. The Tampa Bay victory eliminated the Giants. -

The Buccaneers got every break they needed from Cincinnati. The Bengals fumbled a punt, had another blocked, missed a field goal and lost another quarterback to a hand injury as Tampa Bay rolled to a 28-0 halftime lead.

The 28-point half was Tampa Bay's biggest in 10 years and tied for the second-best in franchise history. The 28-point halftime lead was Tampa Bay's biggest ever.

Cincinnati failed to score for the first

time since 1992 and was shut out at strike replacement loss against Cleveland in 1987. The last bome shutout before that was 14-0 against Buffalo in

Things broke the Buccaneers' way from the start, They were 0-16 when the pame-time temperature was 39 degrees Fahrenheit (4 degrees centigrade) or below, it had warmed to 40 degrees (with a wind chill of 29 degrees) at the coin flip Sunday.

Trent Dilfer, the Tampa Bay quarterback, set the tone by throwing a 50-yard touchdown pass to Robb Thomas who had had only one reception all season — on the fifth play of the game. The Bengals crumbled after their kicker, Dong Pelfrey, missed wide right on a 40-yard field goal attempt on their first possession. Alstott's one-yard touchdown dive made it 14-0, and Eric Bieniemy fumbled the kickoff to set up another Alstott one-yard push only 2:49

 Dilfer's four-yard touchdown pass to Reidel Anthony made it 28,0 with 8:07 hand injury for the third time in four games when Paul Justin hurt his right hand late in the second quarter. Bric Kresser, playing in only his second NFL game, finished and threw a pair of in-

Ronde Barber's interception at the rs' one-yard line ended Cincinnati's final scoring threat early in the fourth quarter. Kresser finished seven-of-17 for 102 yards.

The smallest home crowd of the season watched Cincinnati finish 3-13 for the fourth time in the 1990s. The approximately 40,000 fans booed each Bengal mishap and unfurled banners calling for Mike Brown to step down as general manager.

Reeves, the Atlanta coach, watched from home, missing his second straight game after heart bypass surgery, the Falcons finished out the best regular season in team history with a rout of the visiting Miami Dolphins.

Atlanta (14-2), had already clinched the National Football Conference West, a first-round bye and No. 2 seed in the conference behind Minnesota. But Reeves, in a midweek telephone call. told his players that it was important to go into the playoffs on a roll.

They did. The Falcons stunned the

turnover-plagued Dolphins (10-6) by jumping to a 21-0 lead just eight minutes into the game and enter the postseason with a nine-game winning

Miami, coming off a Monday night victory over Denver, needed another victory to ensure a home game in the first round of the playoffs. But the Dolphins lost four fumbles, and Dan Marino, their quarterback, was intercented twice.

The Dolphins still gained a home playoff game when New England lost to the New York Jets. Miami will play host to Buffalo next weekend.

Jamal Anderson carried 18 times for 103 yards, including a 36-yard touch-down. He set an NFL record for most rushing attempts in a season, finishing with 410 to eclipse by three the mark set by James Wilder of Tampa Bay in

Marino threw for 320 yards - his third straight 300-yard game — but it didn't matter. The Dolphins gave up a season high for points, but finished the season having allowed only 265 points, the best in the NFL.

Atlanta, which led 24-6 at halftime, blew it open with two more quick scores left in the second quarter. in the third period, scoring both times on the Bengals lost a quarterback to a the very next play after Miami fumbles. in the third period, scoring both times on



Mike Alstott of Tampa scoring over Billy Granville, left, Reinard Wilson (55) and Takeo Spikes (51) of Cincinnati.

# Testaverde Lifts Jets Over Patriots

# New York Finishes at 12-4, Earning a Bye in First Week of Playoffs

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey - The last time the New York Jets finished a season this hot, they won their only Super Bowl.

With a history sprinkled with few successes and so many disappointments, finding highlights for the Jets never was an easy chore. That is, until this season, which they finished off in style Sunday, routing the New England Patriots, 31-10, behind Vinny Testaverde's four touchdown passes.

The Jets, 1-15 just two years ago before Bill Parcells took over as coach, set a franchise record with their 12th victory. It was their sixth straight triumph, and their 12-4 record earned the team a playoff bye this weekend.

It has been 30 years, or back when Joe Namath was in the midst of his Hall of ame career, since the Jets have been so

Testaverde, in what he has called "a agical season," set a elnb record with 29 touchdown passes. His 12th pro season has been his best by far, and probably much better than anyone imagined when he signed in June as a free agent to back up Glenn Foley.
The AFC's leading passer, Test-

averde had touchdown passes of 4 yards

to Kyle Brady, 8 yards to Curtis Martin, 17 to Dedric Ward and 24 to Keyshawn Johnson. He completed 17 of 27. Martin, another key free-agent ad-

dition this year, rushed 29 times for 102 And for all their firepower - 416

points this season — the Jets also allowed the second-fewest points in the league, 266, just one more than Miami. The Patriots (9-7) already had made the playoffs despite a rash of injuries to key players. Among the missing Sunday were quarterback Drew Bledsoe, wide receiver Terry Glenn and inside linebacker Ted Johnson. Without them and with the Jets on such a roll - the

Patriots had little chance. Ravens 19, Lione 10 If the Baltimore Ravens had played this well all seasoo, maybe Ted Marchibroda would have felt better about his team's victory over the visiting Detroit Lions.

Instead, he walked off the field with the understanding that the game might have well marked the end of his career as an NFL head coach.

Priest Holmes scored a touchdown and became the Ravens' first 1,000yard rusher as Baltimore (6-10) closed a disappointing season by beating the error-prone Lions (5-11).

The game marked the end of Marchibroda's three-year cootract. Although he wore a broad smile as he

shook hands with the Detroit coach, Bohhy Ross, after the game, it is a virtual certainty that Marchibroda will not return next season. Marchibroda, 67, failed to produce a

winning season with the Ravens and is 16-31-I over that span. His dismissal could come as soon as Monday.
The Ravens led, 16-0, in the second

narter, then let the lead dwindle to 16-10 before Matt Stover kicked a 30-yard field goal with 5:03 remaining to elinch Holmes gained 132 yards on 20 car-

ries and finished with 1,008 yards for the season. Jim Harbaugh shrugged off an early elbow injury to finish 17-for-26 for 141 yards and a touchdown.

Chiefs 31, Raiders 24 On Saturday, the Chiefs extended their record of dominance over Oakland to 17 victories in the last 19 games between the two teams. Derrick Thomas returned a fumble 44

yards for a score, and Tony Gonzalez caught a 20-yard touchdown pass to break a fourth-quarter tie for the visiting Chiefs. "Unfortunately, we can't use this as a springboard, because we're not in the playoffs," Thomas said.

# Vikings Win **To Post 15-1** Season Mark

Minnesota Sets 3 Records In 26-16 Pasting of Oilers

By Thomas George

NASHVILLE, Tennessee looked like a team that had clinched everything — the playoffs, home-field advantage, team and individual honors - a team that had everything going for it on the road against a team whose season hlew up long ago. It looked like the Minnesota Vikings, down by 13-8 at halftime against the Tennessee Oilers, needed a collective jolt, something to spark the day, something to make this matchup more intense. More urgent.

The Vikings found it in the third

quarter. That is their quarter. The Vikings took the opening kickoff

in the third quarter and dominated the Oilers. They drove 76 yards in nine plays, and Randali Cunningham finished the series by tossing a 5-yard scoring pass to Randy Moss. Cunningham-to-Moss earned the two-point conversion, too, and the Vikings were set, as they went oo to a 26-16 victory Saturday at Vanderbilt University.

Minnesota outscored Tennessee by 15-3 in the third quarter, which helped the Vikings set the record for the most points in a season in National Football League history (556). Those points also gave Minnesota a 139-58 scoring advantage in third-quarter play this season. Minnesota earned a 15-1 regular season record, to join the 1984 San Francisco 49ers and the 1985 Chicago Bears as the only teams to finish with that record; both of those teams went on to win the Super Bowl.

"We can score on special teams, on defense and on offense," said Dennis Green, the head coach. "The scoring record we earned today is a team record. We made enough plays in the second half, and Randall Cunningham played a solid game. The offense came around, but we always have a fast-starting defense. We have a team that plays together. That makes me most proud."

Cunningham was 23 of 35 for 235 passing yards with two touchdowns and

It was the eighth victory in a row for the Vikings, who are set for the National Football Conference playoffs, with a hye this weekend. The NFC road to the Super Bowl must now go through Minnesota.
"I really believe that our talent level

is not that much different from that team," said Samari Rolle, the rookie cornerback for Tennessee, which has been stuck at 8-8 for three consecutive seasons. "The difference may be in part talent, but it is just as much fidence. That is a very confident group. You can tell by the way they talk before they play. They just believe."

The Vikings have already earned his-

tory. In this game alone, they set three NFL records.

• Their 556 points this seasoo hroke the league record of 541 set by the Washington Redskins in 1983.

• Gary Anderson scored 10 points to give the kicker 164 for the scason. He surpassed Mark Moseley of Washington (161 in 1983) as the highest scoring kicker for a single season. Anderson also had a perfect season in field goals (35 of 35) and in extra points (59 of 59). He stretched his NFL record of consecutive field goals to 40 over two seasons.

 Moss and Cris Carter, the Vikings receivers who both scored touchdown catches, set a record for most touchdowns by a receiving duo (28 - Moss

with 17 and Carter with 11). "We played like we were capable of playing," Carter said, "and we knew it was going to be a tough week with Christmas and traveling and all of those things. I think we handled it really well. The 15-1 record does not matter now. We have home field in the playoffs, and we are 0-0 now. But we are excited

about what we can do."



year, hitting a 39-yarder Sunday.

# Missouri Deals West Virginia Its 8th Straight Bowl Defeat

TUCSON, Arizona — West Virginia couldn't quite keep up with the Joneses in the Insight com Bowl.

Cosby Jones rushed for three touch-

downs and Julian Jones intercepted a oass and Junan Jones intercepted as pass and blocked a punt for a safety as No. 23 Missouri (8-4) held on to bear the Mountaineers, 34-31, Saturday night.

There's not much you can say," said Corby Jones, whose father Curtis, a

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Missouri assistant coach, died of a heart attack in July. "We just did this for my dad and for the team.'

Julian Jones, who also had 10 unssisted tackles and a 39-yard free kick return that helped set up a score, was named the game a outstanding player. The sophomore started at cornerback ecause the senior Wade Perkins was spended for the game for unspecified

team rule violations.

West Virginia (8-4) lost its eighth consecutive bowl game, tying South Carolina's NCAA Division I record. South Carolina's skid ended with a vicory over West Virginia in the 1995 arquest Bowl.
"I was sad for Wade because I knew

would have been his last game, ulian Jones said. "I tried to come in and to the things that he would have done or our team, because he is a big-time

Marc Bulger of West Virginia comLeted 34 of 51 passes, both Insight com

final collegiate game, led a 76-yard, 14-



Bowl records, for a school-record 429 yards and four second-half touchdowns to bring the Mountaineers back from a 21-point deficit Bulger's four touch-down passes tied an Insight.com Bowl record, and his leading receiver, Sean Foreman, caught an Insight.com record

11 passes for 189 yards.
11 passes for 189 yards.
Bulger's nine yard scoring pass to
Amos Zereoue cut Missouri's lead to
31-24 with 10:27 to play, and his oneyard touchdown toss to David Saunders made it 34-31 with 2:11 to play. But Dwayne Blakley of Missouri recovered the onside-kick attempt, and the Tigers ran out the clock.

play fourth-quarter drive that consumed 6:43 before stalling at the West Virginia
1. Brian Long's 18-yard field goal with
3:44 to go put the Tigers up 34-24.
West, the No. 5 rusher in Division I-

went oo to bear Bethine-Cookman, 28-2, Sannday in its fourth straight Heritage Bowl appearance in the Georgia Dome, Steve Woofford ran for 119 yards on

OANU BOWL Air Force, ranked No. 16, routed Washington, 45-25, in the Oahu Bowl in Honolulu on Christmas Day. Snubbed in the national championship selection process despite an 11-1 record, Air Force placed an ex-clamation point on its season with the

first-ever bowl-game doubleheader. ALOHA BOWL In the first half of the doubleheader in Honolulu, Mike Moscheni threw for four touchdowns to lead Colorado to a 51-43 victory over Oregon. Moschetti threw TD passes of

two interceptions and a key furnile re-covery and Karsten Bailey, his teamtwo interceptions and a key furthle re-covery and Karsten Bailey, his team-mate at Auburn, scored the winning touchdown in the Gray squad's 31-24

# Magic Handshake Helps Canadiens Grab a Victory

The Associated Press

TORONTO - As Maurice (The Rocket) Richard made his exit on a red carpet from center ice after the ceremonial face-off prior to the last Montreal Canadiens-Toronto Maple Leafs game in Maple Leaf Gardens, Stephane Quintal glided over and shook his hand. With 4:58 remaining in the game, Quintal slid a shot that bounced off

# NHL ROUNDUP

the stick of Curtis Joseph, the Toronto goalie, continued through his legs, and gave the Canadiens a 2-1 victory Saturday. "I shook his hand and maybe that's why I scored," Quintal said of his first

goal this season. The victory saved the Canadiens the dubious distinction of tying the cluh record, shared by the 1925-26 and 1935-36 teams, for the longest winless streak

Earlier in the day, the Canadiens hired former Montreal star and New Jersey Devils coach Jacques Lemaire to assist general manager Rejean Houle in trying to improve the cluh's sagging fortunes.

Salves 2, Devils C Dominik Hasek, the

Buffalo goalie, recorded his fourth shutout in December, and Miraslav Satan scored both goals as the Sabres won in New Jersey. Hasek, who leads the NHL with seven shutouts, has not allowed a goal in 163 minutes, 35 seconds. Islanders 4, Bruins 2 Mike Wart and

Claude Lapointe scored in the third period as the New York Islanders beat visiting Boston. Rangers 6, Hurricanes 3 Petr Nedved had two goals and two assists, and the New York Rangers scored six times in

the second period for a victory in Greensboro, North Carolina. Adam Graves also scored two goals, and Jeff Beukeboom, Sean Pronger and Niklas Sundstrom had two assists apiece for New York.

Panthers 3, Lightning 1 In Tampa, Florida, Sean Burke stopped 23 sbots, and Bill Lindsay had two goals as Flor-ida handed the Lightning their ninth

straight home loss. Penguins 2, Senators 1 In Pittsburgh,

Jaromir Jagr scored 1:18 into overtime to beat Ottawa. Peter Skudra, Pittsburgh's backup goalie, played brilliantly — particularly in the third period, when his team was outshot 13-1 - to give the Penguins a

chance to win. Flyors 3, Blackhawks 2 Eric Lindros and Eric Desjardins scored in the first four minutes as Philadelphia won in Chicago to extend its unbeaten streak to seven games. Doug Gilmour scored both Chicago goals — and recorded his 1,200th NHL career point.

Blues 4, Red Wings 3 In St. Louis, Scott Pellerin scored twice as the Blues extended Detroit's losing streak to a

season-high five games.

The five-game losing streak is the longest for the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions since the 1990-91 season.

Produtors 3, Capitals 1 In Nashville, rookie goaltender Tomas Vokoun earned his second straight victory against a 1998 Stanley Cup finalist as the expansioo Predators beat Washington. Vokoun, who had made 50 saves in

the Predators' 5-3 victory over Detroit on Wednesday, needed to stop just 26 of 27 shots against the struggling Capitals. Washington has won just three of its last 12 games. James Black's goal with 7:07 left in the game spoiled the shutout bid by Vokoun, a 22-year-old from the Czech Republic. Stars 4, Avadanche 2 Brett Hull scored

two power-play goals, giving him seven goals in seven games, as Dallas ex-tended its unbeaten streak to 11 with a victory over visiting Colorado.

Hull, with 13 points in his last 11 games, added an assist, and Mike Modano had two assists, helping Dallas reach the 300-assist plateau.

Sharks 2, Canucks 0 In San Jose, Backup goaltender Steve Shields recorded his first NHL shutout, and Patrick Marleau and Mike Ricci each scored a goal as the Sharks beat Vancoover. Shields stopped 25 Vancouver shots.

### The Vikings' Gary Anderson, who went 35 for 35 on field goals this

# Louisville Upsets Kentucky Once Again

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky --- A lot of people were surprised by Louisville's upset of No. 3 Kentucky. None

of them played for Louisville. There was no doubt in my mind we could beat them," said Tony Williams, a forward, after the Cardinals

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

eat the Wildcats, 83-74, on Saturday. We all knew we could do this." Marques Maybin scored 19 points, neluding seven straight late in the second half, as Louisville beat its litter intrastate rival for the second

2), banned this year from postseason play by the NCAA, woo its third consecutive game.

"This was a big win for our kids because everybody thought it was a fluke last year — and it probably was," said Denny Crum, the Louisville coach, referring to the 79-76 victory at Kentucky's Rupp Arena. Kentucky (10-3), which was com-

ing off a 71-60 loss to second-ranked Duke, has lost two straight for the first time since 1994. The Cardinals forced Kentucky into 18 turnovers and held the Wildcats to 46 percent shooting from the field, including only 2-of-15 from 3-point

traight season.

Williams and Cameron Murray
Scott Padgett led Kentucky with 13
Fach added 14 points as Louisville (5points, and Michael Bradley had 12.

# Air Force's Scott McKay hanling in a scoring pass against Washington.

A, finished with 125 yards in 31 attempts. Zereoue, the nation's No. 6 rusher, managed just 32 yards in 22 carries. HERITAGE BOWL Ryan Lewis ran 57 yards and 13 yards for third-quarter touchdowns, and Southern University

27 carries for Sonthern. The Jaguars (9-3), the Southwestern Athletic Conference representatives, won for the fourth time in five Heritage Bowls.

dominating victory over the Huskies. The game was the bottom half of a

72 yards to Darrin Chiaverini; 58 yards to Marcus Stiggers, 20 yards to Daniel Graham and 5 yards to Javon Green. BLUE CRAY ALL STAR CLASSIC In Monigomery, Alabama, Jason Bray had

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# WORLD ROUNDUP The Year in Sports, 1998: Too Many Ugly Moments

# Life Ban Is Urged For 2 Australians

CRICKEY Khalid Mahmood, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said that Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka would lobby the International Cricket Council to ban Shane Warne and Mark Waugh,

two Australian stars, for life. The Australian pair apologized this month for providing pitch and weather information to an Indian bookmaker while on tour of Sri Lanka in 1994. They were fined hy the Australian Cricket Board in February 1995, an action kept secret until early this month. The scandal is on the agenda of the cricket council's meeting Jan. 10-11 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The subcontinent was unanimous that the guilty players should be banned for life when we met at New Delhi 10 days ago," Mah-mood said Saturday. (Reuters) mood said Saturday. (Reuter [Test Cricket - Page 16]

### NFL Opens Video Path For Black Coaches

FOOTBALL The National Football League said it would try to promote the hiring of hlack coaches ry videotaping interviews of selected assistant coaches and making

the tapes available to its teams. It said the interviews would be done by an independent consulting agency in the next few weeks and would include about 20 to 30 candidates, most of them hlack.

There are only three hlack head coaches in the league. One, Ray Rhodes, is expected to be fired hy Philadelphia after the season. The others are Dennis Green of Minnesota and Tony Dungy of Tampa Bay. (NYT, AP)

### Former World Champion John Pulman Dies at 75

SNOOKER John Pulman, the former world snooker champion has died at age 75. Pulman, who was world professional champion from 1957 to 1968, had been hospitalized after breaking his hip in a

# Humbug to the NBA

BASKETBALL Michael Wilbon the Washington Post columnist offered a seasonal reaction to the National Basketball lockout:

"You know the first thought that came to mind when I heard news or this Jan. 7 deadline, the so-called 'drop dead' date, for the NBA and its players to negotiate a deal? That both sides should, figuratively speaking of course, drop dead."

'I know that's not exactly an expression of Christmas spirit. But it does come in the spirit of the NBA and its players, who subscribe to their own twisted motto: It is better to receive than to give."

# Drugs, Fan Violence and Strikes Dim Bursts of Athletic Brilliance

By Christopher Clarey International Herald Tribune

EVILLE, Spain - "So let me get this straight, you actually get paid to go to games?"

I have been hearing this question or a version of it since I became a sportswriter, and even if isn't altogether true - I actually get paid to write at warp speed after going to games — I always have liked the tone of it: sports as escapism; an Olympic-ringed circus to

leaven our daily bread.
But the tone of the question and the tone of my workplace have been diverging for quite some time, and although, dear reader, that is hardly your problem, there was usually something to take all our minds off the games in

It started in January with Australian customs officials searching through the luggage of the Chinese swimmer Yuan Yuan as she arrived for the world swimming championships and finding vials of human-growth hormone, a banned

It continued in February when a Canadian named Ross Rebagliati received a lot more attention for testing positive for marijuana than for winning the first snowboarding gold medal in Olympic

It accelerated in July with the world's greatest hicycle race degenerating into a police chase in the wake of more drug searches, seizures, arrests and -- for a change - admissions, although Richard Virenque's was not among them,

It extended into December with a full-hlown Olympic bribery scandal and a National Basketball Association labor dispute that appeared it might be intractable enough to force cancellation of the season for the first time in history.

Perhaps that is a harbinger of the post-modern sports world: one in which there are no games.

But even if the NBA players' lawyers and the league's lawyers come to agreement, I have the lingering suspicion that the whole enterprise of sport, title sponsors and exclusive-rights holders ischugging steadily toward a cliff.

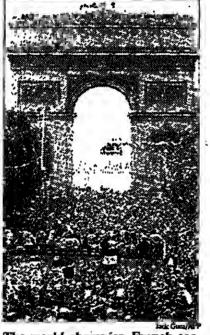
Attribute it to what you will: the inevitable price of decadence; the overemphasis on manufactured and wellmarketed heroes instead of real heroes. or human nature. But however one exlains it, the bright moments for me in 1998 — John Elway and his Denver Broncos finally winning the Super Bowl; the cross-country skiler Bjorn Daehlie sprawling across the finish line to win his eighth Olympic gold medal; Alex Corretja's and Carlos Moya's friendly post-final embrace at the French Open; Zinedine Zidane's nearpost headers in the World Cup final; Marion Jones sprinting down a track with imperfect form and nobody in front of her - are fighting a losing battle for space in my memory bank with the

A few postcards, some sweet and some bittersweet, from the world of sports in 1998:

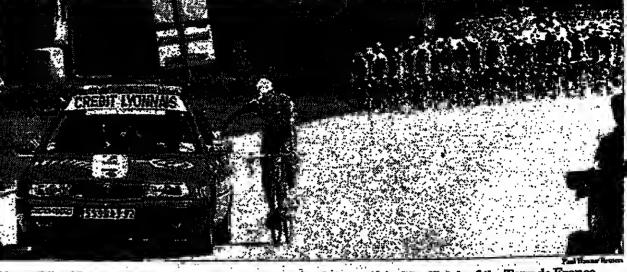
the streets, the dowagers in their furs are sharing space with the hoi polloi in their narkas. But inside a three-star hotel chosen expressly for its inconspicuous-ness, Alberto Tomba is running his hands nervously, compulsively across his face and through his thick curly hair as he talks about the upcoming Winter Olympics. Tomba looks trim; he looks tan, but he looks anything but tranquil as he describes the cumulative psychological effects of an ongoing tax investigation and the ongoing examination of his private life by the fourth estate. This will be the final season for the manchild whose charisma made skiing appealing to the masses.

Feb. 13, Nagano, Japan: Sportswriters train themselves to control their emotions. Cheering in the press box is not allowed, not even for the team you used to live and cry for as a child, and I sometimes have to remind myself that it is completely acceptable to applaud at the theater. But on the morning of the much-delayed men's Olympic downhill ace, my training fails me completely as I watch Hermann Maier of Austria attack a narrow turn with typical insouciance and then, most unexpectedly and spectacularly, hurtle off a lip and take flight. As the world's dominant skier heads toward the ozone layer, skis and poles akimbo, I am shouting with a mixture of surprise and dread, and I don't stop shonting until Maier has crashed and skidded through two security fences. Three days later, Maier would recover his balance and I my composure. He would win the first of two Olympic gold medals by dominating the Super-G.

April 6, Bratisla a, Slovak Republica How many tennis fans, or even tennis fanancs, would pay to watch Dominik



The world champion French soccer team being feted by fans along the Avenue des Champs-Elysees.



Bjarne Riis of Denmark discussing a riders' protest over drug testing with officials of the Tour de France.

Hrbaty play Magnus Gustafsson? Precious few, but it was one of my favorite matches of the year. Hrbaty is a Slovak; Gustafsson is a Swede. And with this Davis Cup first-round match tied at 2-2, both men need a victory to put their team in the quarterfinals. The 31-year-old Gustafsson has spent the week in Bratislava in bed with a virus. The day before this match he was interviewing

his Swedish teammates for television. But because of an injury to Mikael Tillstrom, the convalescent Gustafsson is on the other end of the camera today. After he wins in four nervy sets, in spite of a chronic cough and a lot of crowd support for Hrbaty, his fellow Swedes toss him into the air and rub his balding head. There is not an agent or spin doctor in sight, and eight months later, the Swedes would be rubbing Gustafsson's head again as he helped them win their

third Davis Cup title in five years.

May 6, Rome: I am sitting near the grandstand court at the Foro Italico, the one ringed with neoclassical undes commissioned during the reign of Benito Mussolini, And when Venus Williams has finished working over her smaller, infinitely more massuming Spanish opponent, she saunters over to the stands and begins signing antographs. An el-derly, excited Italian man leans over the railing and shouts like an auctioneer: 'Grande, Grande, Grande. You will be big, big, big, big!" The 6-foot-11/2 (1.85meter) Williams looks up at the spectator with amusement in her eyes and begins to laugh loudly, the braces on herteeth flashing in the afternoon sun:

June 11, Marselle: The man I am talking to in the hardscrabble housing project of La Castellane looks a lot like Zinedine Zidane. That is because he is Zidane's older brother, Farid, who, unlike Zinedine, still lives here. Farid is explaining that it is not easy for those of North African descent to find their place in contemporary France. His brother has managed quite nicely by controlling a soccer ball better than almost anyone on the planet, and as we walk around the concrete concourse where Zidane acquired some of his skills as a youngster, a rainbow coalition of teenagers gathers to answer queries on the eve of France's World Cup opener against South Africa. "Here it's not easy to succeed," one of

the teenagers observes. "But with Zid-

ane, at least people in La Castellane

know that it is possible." July 12, Paris: Zidane has just re-defined French sporting success at the expense of Ronaldo and the and After writing into the night, I exit the el-lipitical Stade de France, the newest national monument in a country overflowing with them. Ourside, the crowd is still dense and we are sonn packed tightly against each other as we inch toward the entrance to the metro.

"On est les champions; On est les champions: On est, On est, On est les

champions!"
Unlike the English or the Brazilians, the French don't have a trove of soccer songs, but they have improvised. On the Avenue des Champs-Elysees, they gather and sing by the tens of thousands as the faces of Zidane and other French players are projected onto the carved stone of the Arc de Triomphe.

It has been a schizophrenic World Cup, the genuine and wholesome cathusiasm in the stands sometimes overshadowed by the rioting in the streets of Marseille and Lens.

I had been in both those cities during. the violence, and as I approach the Champs-Elysees on my bicycle in the early hours of July 13 to rejoin the revelry, I am content that my final image of the globe's most popular sporting event will be of joy, of release.

But when I arrive at the Arc de Triomphe, red lights are flashing: ambulances, police cars, commotion. A panicked driver has accelerated through a crowd of pedestrians, injuring many. The party in this part of town won't be quite the same party again, and this flawed final World Cup evening is, unfortunately, in perfect harmony with a flawed World Cup.

Aug. 8, Monacor The Tour de France

turned out to be an ad boc seminar on morality and the hazards of EPO, an artificial hormone that increases the flow of oxygen to muscles. Michelle Smith-De Bruin, a triple gold medalist in swimming at the 1996 Summer Olympics, has been banned from competition for four years for tampering with her own urine samples. I am in Monaco for a track-andfield meet, and as I look down on Stade Louis II from the old city several hours before the competition begins, I realize how much more difficult it is to find the right tone in this climate of suspicion. Today's world-record holder could be tomorrow's pariah; today's bitter fourthplace finisher a vindicated medalist.

How to leave room for revision without casting aspersions on everyone? How to do justice to a remarkable sporting feat without sounding unjustly skeptical?
September 7, New York: Pete Sampras

is still in the running to match Roy Emerson's career record for Grand Slam victories at the United States Open, buy as I walk through the American come? of the press room at Finshing Meadows, nearly all the televisions are trued into a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game.

A global sport has been trumped by the local, and as Mark McGwire's successful chase of the single-season home-run record continues, I meet regularly with foreign colleagues from France, the Czech Republic and Sweden who are looking for metaphors that work for their countrymen, I do my best.

Imagine it some skier were closing in on Ingemar Steinmark's 88 World Cup

victories, I suggest hopefully to the Swede. My foreign colleagues also want to know why androstenedione, the muscle building supplement McGwire takes, isn't bauned by Major League Baseball if it is banned by the International Olympic Committee. That one is much more difficult to answer. Nov. 23, Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe: I am

in this struggling and lovely southern African nation to do a story on the Black children - Byron, Wayne and Cara -who grew up on a farm near the Zimbabwean capital of Harare and are all successful touring termis professionals. After spending a few days with their family, I have come to this artificial lake that is a magnet for wildlife. This morning, I have rented a boat, and my driver young, lean Zimbabwean Silas. We spot hippos and crocodiles near the shore. We spot cape buffaloes on an island. We find kndn and impala, kingfishers and jacanas. As we are relaxing and admiring a bull elephant as it. approaches the lake to drink. Silas inquires about my line of work. I tell him. and Silas stays quiet a while before finally asking, "So what really happened to Ronaldo at the World Cup?" I look at Silas. I look at the elephant, and I start to laugh, a global villager adrift on Lake Kariba.

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